



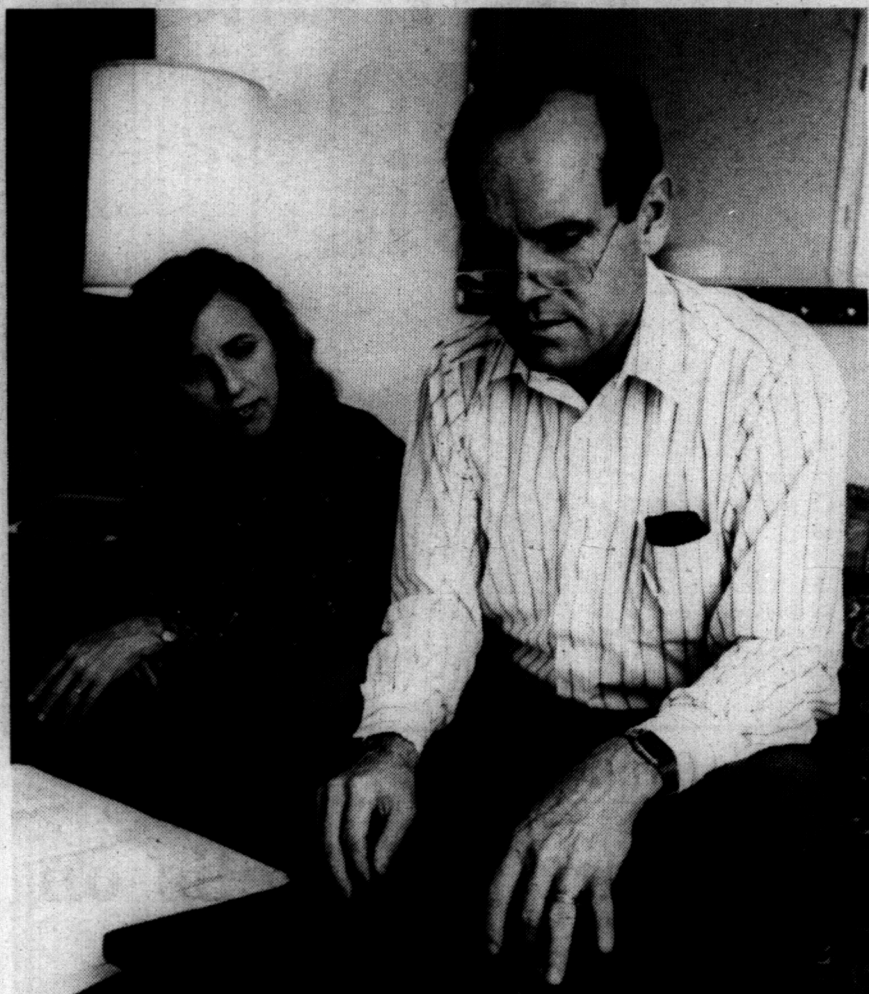
# The Baptist Record



JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, December 12, 1991

Published Since 1877



Madelyn Edens looks over her husband Mike's shoulder as he used a laptop computer for doctoral work. For more than 10 years, the Edens have been Southern Baptist fraternal representatives to Egypt, referred to by natives as the "Mother of Civilization." Now on furlough as New Orleans Seminary's missionaries-in-residence, Mike is working on a PhD in theology at the seminary, and Madelyn is studying for a master's degree at Louisiana State University. (Photo by Breena Kent Paine)

## Couple shares the Father's love with mother of civilization

NEW ORLEANS — Picking one's way through a dump of half-eaten, decomposing animal carcasses to save dehydrated children may not be every Christian's fantasy of foreign missions; neither may be leaving a comfortable pastorate to live in a country where many are hostile to the Christian message.

But for Mike and Madelyn Edens, Southern Baptist fraternal representatives to Cairo, Egypt, and New Orleans Seminary's 1991-92 missionaries-in-residence, serving God in the land natives refer to as the "Mother of Civilization" was a calling from God they could not turn down.

Born in Guthrie, Okla., and reared in Franklin, La., Mike served as pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Elkhart, Tex., and New Hope Baptist Church, Albany, La. But after a powerful message by former Foreign Mission Board President Baker James Cauthen, he was hit with the need for ministers overseas and felt God calling him to foreign missions.

Not sharing her husband's call at the time, Madelyn prayed, "Lord, either you close the door to foreign missions or you change me."

"It was actually in the interview process that I was called," explained Madelyn, a native of Baton Rouge, La., "and I was not called to foreign

missions in general; I was called specifically to Egypt."

"It was really important for Madelyn to have a specific call to Egypt," Mike added, because of the status of women there, the difficult living conditions, and "because you either love Cairo or you hate it; we happen to love it."

Mike has spent much of the past 10 years strengthening existing Egyptian churches through evangelistic preaching and teaching Survival Kit, MasterLife, and theological education by extension. But he also works with small groups of young men who are committed to personal evangelism, encouraging them, providing them with training tools and materials, and modeling for them "how to witness without being offensive or so overt that a person is scared."

Madelyn's work in Egypt has taken a different path. She teaches church music to students from a variety of denominations; and the past two years, she has worked with expatriate women in coordinating the distribution of money to Egyptian charities for the needy in Cairo, keeping in touch with follow-up on how the funds are used.

One such needy area is "Garbage City," a trash dump where recycling workers live with their families in

poor, unsanitary conditions. A clinic has been established in the heart of the area, mainly to help keep alive babies who have become dehydrated.

In order to reach the clinic, however, Madelyn and the other charity workers must pass through a dump of dead animals, stepping over and around the unavoidable, dog-eaten carcasses of pigs and an occasional donkey. Madelyn said their technique for getting through the experience is to "hold our noses and run."

She also works with a cancer clinic, teaches women how to clean their babies, and searches out the needs of hospitals, clinics, orphanages, and schools, each year working with about 60 charities.

This year, however, while the Edens are on furlough in the seminary's missionary residence, Mike is completing a doctor of philosophy degree in theology at New Orleans Seminary, and Madelyn is studying for a master's degree in family relations at Louisiana State University, hoping to use that training in their ministry to young couples in Egypt.

The Edens will also be using this time to get to know their daughter Angela's new husband, Ken Fitzgerald; and "to get used to the empty-nest syndrome," as their youngest daughter Vicki has begun college.

## Christmas, heartfelt experience

By Judd Allen

"... and Mary pondered all of these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Christmas, 1943! What a memorable experience! Our naval vessel was returning to Pearl Harbor after the invasion of the Gilbert Islands and crossed the International Date Line on Dec. 25. We regained the day we had lost while traveling west. Consequently, we had two December 25ths which posed a problem with no set precedent to follow. The captain simply set his own precedent and ruled Christmas would be observed identically each day. This meant that turkey with all the trimmings would be served and that holiday routine would be observed.

Through the years, I have pondered the significance of celebrating Christmas on two consecutive days. I have concluded that Christmas is not so much a special occasion one observes as it is the heartfelt feeling experienced throughout the year. The spirit of Christmas is not limited to a day or season. It is felt in the heart of the individual.

The spirit of Christmas is best understood from the standpoint of Mary, the mother of Jesus, especially in the statement, "and Mary pondered all of these things in her heart." What things? I am convinced Luke met with Mary and discussed the events attending the birth of Jesus, but I do not know where or when the interview occurred. Without this knowledge, Luke could never have conveyed the innermost depths of Mary's feelings. While Paul was jailed in Caesarea, I believe Luke visited her on a day, possibly at her home in Nazareth, and simply said, "Mary, tell me what happened when Jesus was born."

Mary told of the visitation from Gabriel, the angel, and of his promise that the spirit of God would "overshadow" her. She told of her visit with Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. She probably expressed the hurt experienced when Joseph "decided to put her away privately." One can only imagine the scorn she endured as talk of her condition spread throughout her community.

Is there any wonder that her heart was filled with joy as she saw the shepherds appear? Only Mary could have known the full significance of their glad tidings. Mary was assured in her knowledge that God had fulfilled exactly as he said he would. She felt God's love and power deep within her heart, and "she pondered these things." Her soul was deeply stirred because God had been true and faithful in keeping his word.

Christmas becomes a heartfelt experience as you and I realize our God loves sinners and sent his Son to be their Savior. How sad it is to limit those truths to a day or season! Christmas is truly a heartfelt experience to be "pondered" each day throughout the year.

Allen is pastor of Ogden Church, Yazoo Association.



## Christmas definition incorrect?

ESAR'S COMIC DICTIONARY by Evan Esar (Harvest House, NY, 1943, First Edition) is a book Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, MBCB, bought at a flea market. It's a rare book of wit and humor of popular origin. Its comic sayings are listed in alphabetical order, by subject. For instance, here are some that relate to religious subjects — after a fashion:

Adam & Eve. 1. The time of day when Adam was born was a little before Eve. 2. Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden couldn't complain how much better things were in the good old days.

Adamant. Adam should have been adamant.

Atheist. A man who has no invisible means of support. Calendar. What a speaker goes by if he forgets his watch.

Careful. Be bold in what you stand for but careful in what you fall for.

Cemetery. A place filled with people who thought the world couldn't get along without them.

Cellist. A person who should have bowlegs.

Christianity. Primitive peoples can learn almost everything from the Christian nations except Christianity.

Christmas. 1. The season when we must get the children something for their father to play with. 2. The season when fowl murder promotes peace and good will. 3. A widely observed holiday on which neither the past nor the future is of so much interest as the present.

Church. If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then a lot of people certainly love the church.

Collection. A church function in which many people take only a passing interest.

Daniel. The only man who was not spoiled by being lionized.

Eve. The only woman who couldn't throw up to her husband the better men she might have married.

Love. A softening of the heartieries.

Newspaper's duty. To comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

Noah. How much happier we should be during summer evenings if Noah had stepped on the male mosquito before he left the ark.

Samson. He had the right idea about advertising: he took two columns and brought down the house.

Social tact. The ability to make your company feel at home even though you wish they were.

(Note: Since the book was published in the middle of World War II, it has many references to people and happenings of that time, as Hitler, Adolf. A man who is positively naziating.) — AWM



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The happiest (and saddest) time of the year

Christmas for most of us is a celebration of joy. We look in on well-lit homes, eggnog and cookies, and a glowing fireside. Kids are home from college, grandchildren are bundles of investigative energy, and joy floods the land. Church choirs are at their best as we give thanks to God for the Babe of Bethlehem.

Then we realize there are two faces of Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge stalks in and rains on our picnic. Instead of singing, we hear harsh profanity. In the back street, a homeless man searches for a bar as hungry children tear through a garbage can. An elderly man dies alone in a nursing home. A husband and wife, estranged, pay respect to a dying marriage. A blind child traces the wax face of a Santa Claus with trembling fingers even as we hear the crash on the highway turning joy to mourning.

Why this bag with a mixture of good and bad? It's like real life, like our everyday world. We weave in and out of conflict and pain, joy and peace. Family, friends, loved-ones all take on new meaning. Relationships to friends and strangers are more important to

us. For most of us, it's "Joy to the World."

The Christmas season can have the opposite effect on some people. It can trigger acute depression. This has been called America's number one illness. One fourth of all Americans will have significant depressive illnesses in their life times, 6% at any given time, according to Evangelical Press. Depression can be controlled. You may not be able to cure it, but you can control it. Here is a disease that affects 30 million Americans, and Christmas could well be the peak season. The constant drip, drip, drip of the leaking faucet seems to heighten during the Christmas holidays. It is said, "Those who know not how to fight worry die young."

"Confusion is the chief cause of worry," declared Herbert Hawkes of Columbia University. Just as the sun can burn away the morning haze, Christ can shed light into our darkened lives and help us see clearly. Get the facts. Don't base your decisions on half-cocked ideas and poor information if you would defeat worry.

Still, the real burden of this editorial is how the church can minister to the

depressed person. We do a superb job in ministering to the joyful. The depressed may attend church, most do not. All of them need a friend, a confidant with whom they can share. They reach out in various ways seeking to make this contact. This includes seclusion, being a loner, or maybe even being loud, brash, and overbearing. They may be saying, "Would someone please notice me?" Mostly, they just withdraw and suffer the pain or guilt.

Is there not a ministry for the church here? Edwin Markham touched on it: "He drew a circle that shut me out, heretic, rebel, a thing to flout, but love and I had the wit to win, we drew a circle that took him in." Does our brand of Christianity have a plan for the depressed person, the loner, the singles, the widows, and the list could go on?

Can we really understand God's gift apart from a world in need? The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This light illuminates the dark places when you find the hungry, the lame, the halt, and the blind. If you have the light, you will see the need.

## Your gift to Lottie Moon — a gift of eternal significance

By R. Keith Parks

As we approach Christmas 1991, we Christians have much to celebrate. Who can doubt that God is at work in our world when we see walls crumbling; warring parties making peace; hostages set free, and especially when we see the gospel preached where it was once suppressed?

I still marvel when I think of the possibility of Southern Baptists and Korean Baptists cooperating with the Iranian government to open a hospital. Or when I hear of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Monrovia, Liberia, and how it has grown from 40 to 190 members in a matter of months, in part because Southern Baptist missionaries and African Baptists have fed refugees of that nation's bloody civil war. Or when I hear of 70 people accepting Christ as Savior when two Baptists, including Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wagner, preached on the steps of the Communist Party headquarters in a Bulgarian city.

I marvel also at those God has sent as his people in this world. Under the Foreign Mission Board, there are about 3,900 missionaries assigned to 121 countries, and serving and visiting several additional countries. Their witness touches more of the earth than any of us really understands. My conviction is that if you could gather 3,900 people from any other group, that none would surpass the quality, the ability, the commitment, the

dedication, the expertise, the effectiveness, the evangelistic zeal and spiritual qualities of these 3,900 who call themselves Southern Baptist missionaries.

The first thing I would say about them is they are called of God to be his servants, his missionaries representing Jesus Christ and proclaiming him to a lost world. In a day when so many are reluctant to make long-term commitments to anybody or anything, it continues to be a remarkable phenomenon that so many come forth from Southern Baptist churches to acknowledge that God has called them to open-ended, unrestricted, unlimited commitment of service.

Secondly, I would observe they evidence a level of commitment beyond that which most people demonstrate. I have read the testimonies recently of that one in the tropical mountains walking two days beyond where the outrigger canoe could take him, where 20 people were saved. An old man said, "Now I know there is a God who cares if an American would come this far to share the gospel with us." The missionary got sick from the trip, as the local pastors also did. But after recuperating he will return.

There is also doctrinal integrity among the missionaries whom we appoint. Missionaries are examined thoroughly by staff and board

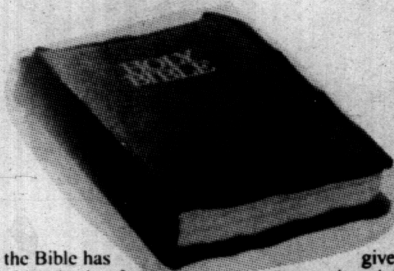
trustees. But missionaries are constantly evaluated in other ways. They are heard by Southern Baptists at the grassroots. They preach in churches; they speak in state and national conventions; they write newsletters regularly.

These missionaries are evangelistic. Our primary purpose is evangelism that results in churches. We would forfeit our calling unless all of our missionaries have an evangelistic emphasis. All of them, whatever their assignment, have been trained in personal evangelism, and they not only exemplify it, but they influence Baptist leaders in the countries to which they have gone. For the last decade, the ratio of baptisms to membership overseas has been approximately 12 to 1. This averages out those very hard and difficult places with the more responsive fields, and even though we have made extraordinary gains in numbers, the ratio has remained remarkably stable.

This emphasis is noted in new church starts also. With 2,600,000 members, the churches overseas had a net growth last year of 2,880 churches, moving from 21,242 churches to 24,122 churches. This is due in large degree to the tone the missionaries set.

At this time of special emphasis on foreign missions, I would simply want to appeal to all Southern Baptists to

# If the world came with an owner's manual, this would be it.



For thousands of years, the Bible has been a source of wisdom and inspiration for people all over the world. In times of darkness, it has provided light. In times of distress, it has

given us comfort. In times of uncertainty, it has given us direction. Rediscover the Bible. It's the one book that has helped shape the world.

Laymen's National Bible Association, Inc., 1865 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10023, (212) 408-1390.

## Hymns Baptists sing . . .

## "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

By William J. Reynolds

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the hymn in 1864, when the war between the States was nearing an end. The significance of the phrase "peace on earth, good will to men," when the North and the South were at war must have gripped his mind.

The angels' song of peace and good will is the sole message of the carol. No other elements of the Christmas story are mentioned directly or even by implication.

There is no reference to the birth of Christ, to Mary, Joseph, the manger, Bethlehem, the shepherds, the wise men, the angel, or the heavenly host — just the song they sang.

Longfellow writes in the first person singular, and in a very personal way makes known his feelings, his thoughts, his responses. The verb tense is the immediate present — now!

Peace and good will are dealt with not just as something heard by frightened shepherds long ago on Judean hills, but as something strangely missing now. The reality of strife denies the presence of peace, and human hatred "mocks the song" of good will to mankind.

Yet, there is evidence of the poet's faith and hope in the strong affirmation expressed in the final stanza: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep." The truths Longfellow expressed in the carol have not dimmed across 127 years.

Reynolds is professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary.

intensify our praying for our missionaries. They face the dangers of disease, traffic accidents, rebel activity, and unrest to a degree of which we are not aware. God knows, and even as we pray, he releases his protective power. We need to pray for them in times of discouragement and burnout and temptation and exhaustion and depression, and in times of victory, enjoyment, and excitement.

I would appeal to you also as you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to consider the eternal significance of your gift. Your gift may buy a film projector for showing the Jesus film to thousands who can't read those same words in the book of

Luke. Your gift may buy discipleship materials which strengthen believers in Egypt to face the struggle of living as Christians in a Muslim land. Your gift may buy a strategic plot of land in Argentina so that a church can bring the gospel into that community.

More than 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries are counting on your support as they face both the difficulties and joys of serving in the lands where God has called them. Celebrate this Christmas by praying steadfastly and giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a gift with eternal significance.

Parks is president, Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

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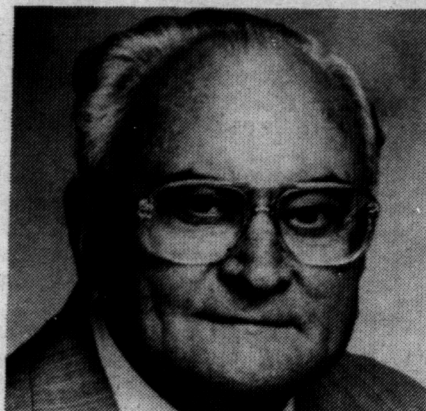
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# An interview with President Walley

By Guy Henderson



The following is an interview with W. W. Walley, newly-elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, conducted recently at the Baptist Record offices.

**BR:** How did you happen to settle in Waynesboro?

**Walley:** I grew up in Sand Hill in Greene County, 12 miles from Richton. I was in the CCC camp in Waynesboro, and that's really the thing that attracted me to the area. I had in mind the type of place I wanted to practice medicine — a small country town. There were several in mind, including Waynesboro, and it's the one I settled on.

**BR:** Tell us about your family.

**Walley:** Of course, there's my wife. We have two sons and one daughter. Three live in Waynesboro, and one lives in Chattanooga.

**BR:** What are your hobbies?

**Walley:** Coin collecting is the only real hobby I have. You might say it's my worst vice. I've been at it for 40 years, and I've always enjoyed it.

**BR:** What kind of reading, other than medical journals, are you involved in?

**Walley:** I don't have a lot of time to do much reading. I spend more time reading biographies than anything else.

**BR:** Where and when did you become a Christian?

**Walley:** It's one of those things that are kind of difficult to pinpoint. I grew up in a Christian home. It was just kind of a gradual growth into it.

But I was 14 years old when I saw that I had to be my own person, that I couldn't rely on my mother and father's salvation any more, that I had to have my own relationship with God. That's when I really became a Christian.

I was baptized later at Sand Hill, in a little running creek there.

**BR:** How do you account for your interest in missions?

**Walley:** I've always been interested in missions, even before I really knew

what it was all about. I sometime became aware of the lost people in the world. But, I guess the thing that really set me on fire for missions more than anything else was a trip I made with Owen Cooper to India, and saw the plight of the people there.

But, you know, it's hard to believe that I went all the way through high school, college, and medical school, and no one ever mentioned the words medical missions to me. I think if somebody had planted the seed, I would have been a medical missionary. That has really been my love in missions.

I also served eight years on the Foreign Mission Board as a trustee.

My wife and I have been on numerous mission trips. We have taken our vacations on the mission field, in most cases to relieve a missionary doctor somewhere, for 35 years or more.

**BR:** What are the countries where you have visited or served as a volunteer worker?

**Walley:** I've been to 34 different countries, mostly India, Thailand, Bangladesh, in that part of the world. Some in Africa, including Zimbabwe. I was always impressed by the missionaries' dedication to the Lord and their profession.

**BR:** What would you tell young medical students about their future practices?

**Walley:** One, to have a relationship to God through Jesus.

Another, not just to be married to medicine, do something else as well. Some of the great experiences of my life have come from doing other than just being a medical doctor, and doing some type of church-related mission work, even if it was medical-related.

**BR:** What characteristics do you admire most in a person?

**Walley:** Honesty, integrity, sincerity, and someone who has a religious affiliation and lets it be a part of his everyday life.

**BR:** You have written a book in which you said you delivered over 6,000 babies. You may be among the last of the country doctors.

**Walley:** Yes, I was right on the tail end of the old type of country doctors, and the beginning of a new breed of doctor.

**BR:** What are your hopes and dreams for the Mississippi Baptist Convention?

**Walley:** That's very real to me. The moment the vote was given and I was elected, I never felt as strongly an inclination that God was telling me that he wanted me to preach from one end (See **WALLEY** on page 10)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## FMB committee votes "no" to restoring of funds

By Robert O'Brien and Art Toalston

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee committee refused Dec. 6 to recommend the agency's trustees restore \$365,000 cut from the budget of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The final vote, a 13-10 defeat of a motion by trustee John Simms of Virginia, came near the end of about nine hours of intense, blunt, and sometimes emotional discussions between representatives of the trustees, board staff, and European Baptist leaders.

The sessions, held Dec. 5-6, revealed increasing tensions over issues surrounding the Ruschlikon seminary. They resulted in head-to-head confrontation between the trustees, who want to implement their concerns over the seminary's theological direction, and the FMB staff and European Baptist leaders, who have urged that the mission agency keep its promises

and treat European Baptists as equal partners.

Trustees have felt the seminary should move in a more conservative direction. Two European Baptist leaders attending the session, Karl-Heinz Walter and Wiard Popkes, affirmed their own conservative theology. So did Ruschlikon's missionary president, John David Hopper, FMB President R. Keith Parks and others.

But Parks and Hopper said the Foreign Mission Board must work

with European Baptists as equals without insisting on uniformity. Parks said the board's responsibility in missions around the world is to send missionaries who represent Southern Baptist beliefs. But the board must work through influence and persuasion with others, not control, he added.

Walter and Popkes expressed the desire to work in partnership with Southern Baptists, but not under the condition that European Baptists must believe exactly as they do.

(See **FMB** on page 9)

### Bulletin

The trustees of the Foreign Mission Board meeting Dec. 9-11 had taken no action at press time on the Ruschlikon matter. The European Committee met again on Monday evening. There was to be a motion on Wednesday to reconsider the defunding of the seminary. Full story will be in the next issue.

## Board approves sick leave policy

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee made two staff changes and elected officers in their December meeting at the Baptist Building last week.

Matt Buckles was elected to replace James Harrell as church building consultant. Harrell is retiring.

Buckles is already employed half time in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department working with bivocational ministers.

The church building work will make Buckles a full-time employee of the board. Since November of 1990, he has also been pastor of Crossview Church, Brandon.

Also, the committee promoted Robert "Bo" Price, 37, as supervisor of printing services. He replaces Jack Roberts who is retiring after 37 years' service to the board. Price has been working for the convention board for nearly six years.

Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, was elected chairman of the Executive Committee. Ed Deuschle, pastor of First Church, Pontotoc, was elected vice chairman. And Ben Carlisle, pastor of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, was elected secretary.

The group also approved procedures for purchase and depreciation of fixed assets. The procedures improve accounting procedures and provide for a fund to replace worn-out equipment without having to budget anew for them.

Later in the day the full board approved a sick leave policy recommended by the Executive Committee. The policy allows new employees a half day every two weeks to accumulate as sick leave. It also gives

present employees an accumulation based on number of years in service.

In addition, after discussion, the board voted to send a letter to the three Mississippi trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The letter was to note prayerful concern over the funding of the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Recently, the FMB trustees defunded the seminary for 1992, cutting out \$365,000 from the seminary's 1992 budget. Earlier, the FMB had made plans to continue funding through 1992.

However, in face of protests, a group



Buckles



Price

of interested parties from Europe and the seminary, the administrative staff of the FMB, and trustees on the Euro-

(See **BOARD** on page 8)



Gene Henderson, center, was elected chairman of the Executive Committee, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Ed Deuschle, left, was elected vice chairman. Ben Carlisle, right, was elected secretary.

## Southeastern goes on probation

By Greg Warner

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (ABP)** — Southeastern Seminary suffered the worst blow in its four-year struggle to retain accreditation when one of the seminary's two accrediting agencies placed the beleaguered school on probation Dec. 5.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, at its annual meeting in New Orleans, imposed probation apparently because of Southeastern's lack of research and long-range planning, as well as trustee involvement in the selection of faculty.

"This is the final and most severe

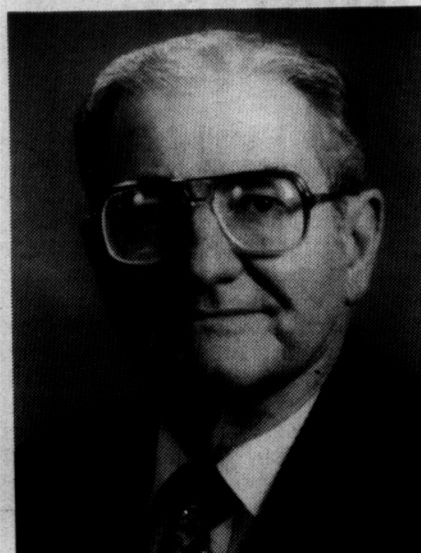
of our three sanctions," explained James Rogers, executive director of SACS' commission on colleges. "If (the violations) are not corrected, they are removed from the association."

The probation is in effect for a maximum of two years. At its annual meeting in December 1993, SACS must either remove the school from probation or withdraw its accreditation entirely. However, SACS can take either action earlier if it is warranted.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.



## First, Petal, honors retiring pastor on 30th anniversary



W. A. Fordham

Fordham earned his bachelor's degree at William Carey College and his master of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary. He has been serving churches in south Mississippi since 1952. His pastorates have included Napoleon Church (1952-1958) Picayune; Oak Hill Church in Poplarville (Jan. 1959-Oct. 1961); and his current pastorate at Petal (Nov. 1961-Dec. 1991).

During his 30 years of ministry at Petal's First Church several men have been ordained into the ministry. Currently, a new 6,700 square foot education building is under construction, signifying current growth.

Fordham has served as moderator of the Lebanon Baptist Association on two occasions and is currently serving a three-year term on the Convention Board (his third term). He has also been the recipient of several community service awards and has served on numerous other state and associational committees.

In viewing his retirement, Fordham stated that he was "redirecting his ministry since pastors never retire." He will be available for interim pastorates, supplies, revivals, Bible studies, and pastoral counseling. He may be reached by calling (601) 545-7729 or writing him at P. O. Box 378, Petal, MS 39465.

## Chapman invites input, committee selections

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — In an open letter to Southern Baptists, Morris Chapman, SBC president, has asked for recommendations for four committees he will appoint prior to the annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. in June.

"During the next two months I am seeking recommendations for possible appointment to these important committees," Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas pastor, said in the letter. He will appoint members to the 1992 Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee, and Tellers Committee.

"I welcome and encourage recommendations from any person within our Southern Baptist family. Complete and accurate information can best be provided (using) a recommendation form," said Chapman. The form is available by writing to: Mar-

tha Gaddis, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN, 37203.

"I know every Southern Baptist recognizes the importance of recommending persons who have qualities and abilities which are uniquely suited for serving on SBC committee. Only the names submitted on a completed recommendation form will be fully considered," Chapman said. The form may be duplicated for multiple recommendations and must be returned with a postmark no later than Feb. 15, 1992.

Chapman said every recommendation would receive his "careful and prayerful consideration."

Recommendations should be sent to him at: First Baptist Church, 1200 Ninth Street, Wichita, Falls, TX, 76301. Envelopes should be marked "SBC Committee Recommendations."

## Foreign Board expands candidate consultant force

By Donald D. Martin

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board hopes to clear a bottleneck in appointing missionaries by expanding its missionary candidate consultant force.

A recent study of the board's personnel selection department's workload found the six candidate consultants could not supply enough missionary candidates each year to reach the Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 5,000 missionaries overseas by the year 2000.

"We recognized there was no way a staff of six candidate consultants can do the job that was needed," said department director Lloyd Atkinson.

The personnel selection department processes career and associate missionary applications. Those interested in a missions career work closely with one of the candidate consultants.

Soon after the study was completed, Atkinson asked Jerry DeOliveira, director of the board's ethnic church relations, to join the department as the new candidate consultant. Another consultant may be added later.

Also, Jim Riddell from Laurel, Miss., will be the first consultant who will not work with a seminary. "The majority of the people I'll work with will be much closer to the actual time of appointment, as opposed to working with people, say in a seminary setting, who are in the early stages of deciding on a life in foreign missions," Riddell said.

Martin writes for FMB.

In 1737, John Wesley published his Collection of Psalms and Hymns, the first modern hymnal.

# Ruschlikon defunding draws loud and angry response

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — For more than a year, trustees of the Foreign Mission Board have been upset by what they perceive to be the Ruschlikon seminary's liberal stance on the Bible. Trustee Paige Patterson told the European leaders the FMB cannot support "anything that calls into question the veracity of the Word of God."

But the Europeans affirmed their own conservatism and suggested the FMB is exporting the Southern Baptist biblical controversy to Europe by its actions. "What we don't want in our country is the divisiveness between you moderates and fundamentalists," Karl-Heinz Walter of Germany told reporters.

Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, told trustees their insistence on theological agreement defeats any attempt at dialogue and undermines the principle of mission partnership. "If we have to take up exactly your theology and how you express it, then we will have no cooperation," he said.

Reaction to the October defunding decision was loud and angry.

European Baptist leaders said future Southern Baptist missions in their region could be jeopardized, raising questions that future missionaries would not be accepted in some countries.

In the United States, Baptists in at least nine state conventions called for trustees to reverse their decision. And several hundred Southern Baptists wrote FMB leaders protesting the action.

Partly because of the complaints, trustee chairman Hancock, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., called a special meeting of trustee leaders Dec. 5-6 to discuss the conflict

with the EBF's Walter and Wiard Popkes, chairman of Ruschlikon's board of trustees.

"From our perspective, this (controversy) is too often a spiritual battle fought with weapons according to the flesh," he said.

Both Popkes and Walter insisted the heart of the conflict was not funding for Ruschlikon but rather the nature of cooperation between Southern and European Baptists.

"If you have a problem investing the money, I respect that," said Popkes. "We came not here for money reasons. If your board has problems of conscience, then we have to respect them and money should not be the crucial issue and we do not ask for it."

Walter said the true issue is how much theological agreement is necessary before two groups can work together.

"If it is possible to cooperate only if we are in the same line, then this is no dialogue," he said. "It is no dialogue if we each share our position and then one has to accept the other's."

"The reaction in Europe was not the defunding, but the way it was done," said Walter, referring to the lack of advance warning.

That comment prompted several trustees to offer personal apologies for their "insensitivity" in failing to consult with the Europeans.

"We owe you gentlemen a heartfelt apology for making this action so abrupt," said Skip Smith of Houston, who added he had voted to eliminate the funds. "We were not perceptive... and I would like to offer humblest apologies. I would beg your forgiveness."

Other trustees responded that a rigid theological uniformity was not

the FMB's goal.

"What we are asking is in no circumstances that we are to walk in lock step with other," said Paige Patterson of Dallas. "What we are saying is that it is not conceivable for Southern Baptists to support anything that calls into question the veracity of the Word of God."

Some trustees allege that Hinson's views undermine confidence in the reliability of Scripture.

During the two-day meeting, trustees twice went into executive session, reportedly to discuss concerns about the way the FMB staff has handled the Ruschlikon issue.

Some trustees have expressed concerns that staff did not apprise them of Hinson's appointment prior to approval, although board policy does not require them to do so. Other trustees said they believed staff had solicited the complaints about the defunding from European Baptists.

In an exchange with FMB President Keith Parks, Rick Scarborough of Pearland, Texas, asked, "Just for the record, did you orchestrate the response?"

"No, and I resent the question," said Parks.

Scarborough later apologized for his question.

Some of the concerns apparently sparked a request from Patterson that the staff review the policy regarding appointment of short-term volunteers such as Hinson and report back to the full board.

Trustees also asked Parks and his staff to review Ruschlikon's fundraising campaign for possible violations of board policy.

Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD in Virginia. Ed Briggs of the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH contributed to this story.

## German Baptists oppose Nazi-backed attacks

By Mike Creswell

HAMBURG, Germany (BP) — German Baptists will mount a campaign in 1992 to counter a rising tide of Nazi-inspired nationalism and attacks against immigrants that have swept Germany and other parts of Europe in recent months.

"This is something we find very important — that we as Christians show we are peacemakers and that we struggle against this fighting against the foreigners who come to our country," said Hans Guderian, German Baptists' home missions secretary.

The special emphasis will be part of the German Baptist Union's yearlong home missions promotion. Missions conferences will feature participants from many ethnic and racial backgrounds.

German Baptists have an extensive ministry to refugees.

Almost 5 million foreigners live in Germany, a country with 79.5 million people. Several hundred thousand immigrants have moved into Germany in recent years; as many as 2 million more are expected. More than 30,000 asylum seekers entered Germany in October alone, most of them fleeing the war in Yugoslavia. But many of the newcomers are ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union, returning to their homeland now that they are free to move.

Guderian estimates 40,000 of these ethnic Germans come from Baptist or Mennonite backgrounds. The newcomers have organized several hundred churches in Germany. "They form their own organizations because they have their own culture and background," he said. "Often they don't speak German so very well because they have been in the Russian-language culture.... Our long-range goal (is) to help them integrate into normal church life in Germany."

Unsettled economic conditions and a flood of immigrants associated with the fall of communism have caused a backlash against immigrants and led to political victories by extremist right-wing forces in several countries.

In Germany alone, more than 1,000 neo-Nazi-connected attacks have targeted immigrants this year. Six people have died in the attacks and scores have been injured. In November more than 200 neo-Nazis attacked a refugee hostel in Griefswald with firebombs and stones, forcing the 76 residents to flee to another facility.

In Saarbrücken, three men identified as neo-Nazi "skinheads" reportedly kidnapped a Sri Lankan man, knocked him unconscious, and left him lying on a railroad. A passing train crushed one of the victim's legs.

In southern Germany right-wingers threw an Afghan man out of a second-story window. The fall broke the man's nose. In Salzgitter, skinheads threw a firebomb into a wedding reception, then battled the guests.

Elsewhere in Europe, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in France has drawn widespread publicity. Attacks against immigrants have taken place even in Denmark, usually known as a gentle country. In October a black British exchange student was injured in a racist attack in a Danish discotheque. In another incident, young people broke into a kindergarten for refugees and wrote on the walls, "Refugees go home. Denmark for the Danes."

In Brescia, Italy, an anti-immigration party known as the Lombard League defeated the Christian Democrats. In Belgium, the anti-immigrant Vlaams Blok party increased its representation in the legislature from two seats to 12.

Creswell writes for FMB.



Thursday, December 12, 1991

# Master musician was far more than piano teacher

By Anne W. McWilliams



Alice Moore

"Alice Faye Wilkinson Moore lived a life proclaiming God's Word through beautiful singing and through playing the organ and piano with a special feeling that touched the souls of those who heard her," wrote Sheila Tedder of Pearl, a friend of Alice's since their Mississippi College days.

Alice had polio at age 12; she walked with braces and crutches for the rest of her life. "Yet she was fiercely independent," said Tedder. "She was never a complainer. I have seen her, totally exhausted, pick up her crutches and proceed with unparalleled determination."

Another college friend, Jan Rodgers of Jackson, said "her spirit and her joy in living, her delight in life never were hampered by her handicap. Though she could only use one foot, she played the organ with it." When she was growing up, her dad made a special device for her braces so she could wear high heels.

At the time of her death of respiratory failure on Nov. 20 at age 51, Alice was pianist for the Lena United Methodist Church at Lena, where her husband, Van Moore, is pastor. In her lifetime she had played and sung for cantatas, revivals, weddings, and funerals in hundreds of Baptist churches in Mississippi. She had taught music at Clarke College and at Campbellsville Baptist College in Kentucky, and at high schools. She had served as pianist, organist, and/or choir director in churches. For many years she had taught private lessons in voice, piano, and organ. For 16 years she had been staff organist and vocalist for Baldwin-Lee Funeral Homes at Pearl and Jackson.

Born at Morgan City, Alice was bap-

tized at age 9 by C. J. Olander at Morgan City Baptist Church. She majored in music at Mississippi College and then earned a master of music/piano pedagogy degree at North Texas State University and did additional study in education in Pennsylvania.

She and her husband and stepsons, Bradley Alan, and Brian Van, lived in Clinton. Also her parents, Clifford and Tommie Wilkinson, had moved to Clinton a few years ago to be near Alice, their only child.

Paul Saik of Madison, piano student of hers for 12 years and now a sophomore at Mississippi College, said, "She had a unique way with children, of bringing out the best in them. She was more than a piano teacher to me; she was a second mother."

Her husband agreed that she had a special way with children. "Because of her own handicap, she understood, and would teach handicapped children when other teachers might not," he said. "Her private pupils included children with Down's Syndrome and one with a speech impediment. If she could not see progress, it was okay with her; she wanted to improve the quality of the children's lives. In our church at Lena, she would take children who had the fewest advantages and let them sing. She made them feel like somebody."

Jimmy Roberts, Rankin County coroner and a funeral director at Baldwin-Lee, said, "Anything families asked her to do with music, she could do — change the key or play it any way they asked."

Her cousin, Betty Ancheta, said, "She was more like a sister than a cousin. She was a good speaker. If her husband had to be away from a service, the congregation liked for her to lead the worship. One service she did used the 23rd Psalm, combining devotional message with music."

Sheila Tedder added, "Alice inspired me with her broad sweet smile and hearty laughter, her vibrance and enthusiasm. She had a special rapport with everyone she met. We who came in contact with her always went away feeling better because she had a way of elevating people's spirits."

As her husband said, this rapport with people came about "because she showed appreciation for each person she knew. Each one could feel her appreciation because with her it was genuine."



**TEARFUL GOODBYE** — Dan Runnion, left, a deacon at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., says goodbye to Timour Jankobaev who spent two weeks living with the Runnion family and working by Runnion's side as an intern at American Security Corp. Ray Runnion, right, wipes away a tear during the emotion-packed moment at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. "We opened our home to him, but he inhabited our hearts," Mrs. Runnion said. "... And none of us will ever be the same again." (BP photo by Jim Newton)

## "He inhabited our hearts," family says of Kazakh

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Fay Runnion wept unashamedly when she said goodbye to her Kazakh friend, Timour Jankobaev.

In just two weeks, the 24-year-old Kazakh business intern had become an adopted member of the Runnion family.

"We opened our home to him, but he inhabited our hearts," Mrs. Runnion sniffled as Jankobaev boarded the plane to return to the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union.

It was an emotion-packed moment at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport when 19 business interns from Kazakhstan said goodbye to the host families. The interns spent two weeks studying market economy principles practiced by Atlanta corporations.

It was amazing how the Soviet interns and their host families bonded in friendship during the brief period, said Jim Warren, president of Spear Contract Services Inc. and coordinator of the project sponsored by the Central Asia Foundation. All the interns stayed in the homes of Baptist families, most of them members of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Jankobaev's experience with the Runnion family was typical.

Every day, Jankobaev went to work with Dan Runnion, a senior vice president at the American Security Corp., an international company which specializes in insurance and financial services to consumer banks.

Each evening, Jankobaev went

home with Runnion and became a part of the family. He played Chinese checkers nearly every night with 11-year-old Jennifer, and chess with 12-year-old Andrew. "If anything, he saw love in our home, and that seemed to surprise him so much," said Mrs. Runnion.

At the visit to Chick-fil-A Corp., Jankobaev heard Truett Cathey, the president, talk about the Christian principles upon which he founded and operates his fast-food outlets. Runnion told Jankobaev that Cathey has found "the key" to running a business with integrity, and that key is faith in God.

Jankobaev attended worship services at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church where Runnion is a deacon, and took notes when the pastor, Bryan Wright, said Jesus Christ is the greatest gift God has ever bestowed upon mankind.

Jankobaev told the Runnions later that he likes the Bible as a book of wisdom, but he could not "accept Jesus as the cornerstone."

Mrs. Runnion asked Jankobaev what would happen if the cornerstone were removed from a building. Jankobaev, whose father is in the construction business, admitted that the building would collapse.

"We had a divine appointment for two weeks," Mrs. Runnion said. "This stranger came into our lives who had never been in a Christian home before. And none of us will ever be the same."

Newton writes for HMB.

## Soviet Union needs contemporary churches

PASADENA, Calif. (EP) — Thousands of new churches are needed in the Soviet Union, according to one Soviet expert, because the old ones are too rigid to handle the tens of thousands of new converts that are coming to Christ there each month.

"The present church structures have some difficulties handling the new converts," said Siberian-born Andrei Voth after he returned from a visit to his former homeland. "They are much too rigid."

Voth, 35, was born in Prokopievsk, Siberia, and is the son of a church planter who was imprisoned in the Gulag for a total of nine years because of his Christian activities. He now resides in Australia, where he heads up Mission USSR and ASSIST Australia.

Voth said that many Christians in

the Soviet Union have become locked into a rigid structure of "laws" in worship and fellowship. "Worship in Russia is two hours long. There has to be three to four preachers. The men sit on one side of the church and the women, with the children, on the other. They sing sitting, but pray only standing or kneeling. For some Christians it is vanity for a man to wear a tie or watch, or even a wedding ring. And the women have to wear scarves, never cut their hair, and never wear trousers."

Younger believers are "not really made welcome," he said, "especially if they wear modern clothes."

Voth said he believes "the answer is for thousands of new, contemporary churches to be set up across what was the Soviet Union. This new era marks

a new era also for the Church and it has to demonstrate that it is a living church and all the changes of politics gives them an opportunity to blossom. I believe the old structures will just wither away."

He warned western Christians, however, from moving into the Soviet Union and trying to "duplicate what we have here. We have to encourage them to worship God within their own culture. We shouldn't have the attitude of colonialists. We shouldn't feel we are the Big Daddy and we have the whole truth and because we know all the principles we need to teach them to them. There has to be an attitude of fellowship and understanding."

He added, "We must not see the Soviet Union as a new toy for western Christians to play with."

Incredible openness to spiritual things makes it easier to spread the message of the gospel than in the West, but if western Christians do not move quickly, cults will move in and take away that advantage. "They are all there," Voth said, "including the Hare Krishnas, the Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses. For instance, the Mormons have started in just one year over 18 churches in Moscow alone." That is compared to only 13 Protestant churches in Moscow, which has a population of over nine million. Voth urged Christians to put their hands to the plow, "otherwise, it will be too late and we will lose them to the cults," he said.

The word "Lord" appears at least 7,670 times in the Bible.

## Preferred Risk is underwriter, Annuity Board

Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company recently announced it has been chosen as the endorsed property-casualty underwriter for the Southern Baptist Convention, and is available for its 40,000 churches and administrative offices.

Preferred Risk Mutual is part of Preferred Risk Group, a nondrinkers insurance company. The group offers auto, home, and life insurance and annuities as well as church insurance. It is comprised of four companies: Preferred Risk Mutual, Preferred Risk Life, Preferred Abstainers, and Midwest Mutual, and operates nationally.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us," says Mississippi sales manager Dennis Basden. "We're delighted to be working with Southern Baptists because their beliefs so closely match our company philosophy."

"That similarity in philosophy was a main reason Preferred Risk was chosen," says Southern Baptist Annuity Board official Doug Day. Other reasons cited were the company's quality, financial stability, expertise of the claims staff, and the large number of local agents with close ties to their communities.

Although individual churches are free to choose their own insurance companies, Annuity Board officials will promote Preferred Risk's policies to the churches. While churches will be the initial focus of the program, it can extend to all SBC-related entities such as state and associational offices, colleges, retirement facilities, and other church-related ministries.

In addition, Preferred Risk will be able to offer auto and homeowner coverages for individual church members, said Bernard Mercer, Preferred Risk's chairman.

Preferred Risk has served Mississippi for 25 years. It offers various pamphlets and films on the alcohol-free lifestyle at no charge. Speakers are also available to address the drinking and driving issue. Interested persons may call the state office at 939-9300.

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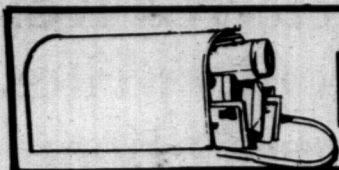
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## Letters to the editor

### Do you really believe He holds us responsible?

Editor:

You can see that many new things are happening in Ethiopia! We believe that despite the present problems, a new day of spiritual progress and harvest are in store for us. But, how is it all going to happen? It is only going to happen when all of us commit ourselves to the Lord to pray and seek his face for this great harvest that he so obviously wants to bring in our world today. We must come to grips with reality. We as American Christians are mostly playing church.

All around us, at home and overseas, there are appalling spiritual and physical needs — literally millions of starving people that we all profess to be "those for whom our Lord Jesus died." We know that many at home are concerned, but as we read from our state papers we see that in many churches it is business as usual. Do we really believe that our Lord is coming soon? Do we really believe that he is going to hold us responsible? We praise the Lord for all of you who fervently pray, and we want you to know that we are praying for you, our churches, and for our denomination too — for true revival.

We couldn't believe last year that in the face of all the worldwide opportunities which had opened up that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was the lowest in several years. Yes, we have heard about the recession, but we don't see many church programs being cut nor people cutting back in other personal areas because of the recession. Don't you think it is incongruous that we who claim to be followers of the humble carpenter of Nazareth are willing to spend millions of dollars on denominational politics — renting blocks of convention hotel rooms and busing thousands to vote "for our side" — and our disregarding the words of the Savior about ministering to our lost world?

Friends, we will be held responsible! And the bottom line for many will be, "Even as you have not done it for the least of these my brothers, you have not done it for me!" Let us examine our priorities and even our Christianity. What did Jesus mean when he said, "If anyone would come after me let him deny himself?"

Oh, we are praying that many will take the Lord Jesus seriously this year and actually do just that and give sacrificially through the Cooperative Program and also give the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in history — that our lost world will know that a Savior has really come, and that his followers really love them enough to give and even come to tell them about Jesus. We pray you will have a blessed, giving Christmas but to a lost world and not just to each other.

Sam and Ginny Cannata  
Missionaries to Ethiopia

### Great disbelief

Editor:

A few weeks ago I read with great disbelief as a writer wrote to discredit W. A. Criswell's not believing the Bible to be free of errors and inspired. Dr. Criswell has held high a standard through the years and has led in the fight against such heresies. This person supposedly gathered his information from a message Dr. Criswell preached Oct. 6, 1991 entitled "These Forty-seven Years." This message was

preached during the height of the Baylor controversy and Dr. Criswell was quoting what some of the professors of biblical studies were teaching at the university. Dr. Criswell has, is, and will always believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God. By the way, the Word of God says; "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

Charles R. Ransier, pastor  
New Albany

### Youth Evangelism Conference

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter which implied that by charging \$5 per person, our Youth Evangelism Conference had become a "pay per-view" event. I can't think of a better spiritual enrichment and Christian fellowship. Our young people think nothing of spending more than that for a two-hour movie or any other type of entertainment.

I would like to see this event being offered for free as well, but you have to be realistic. As is the case in most churches, the money budgeted for youth events in our convention is much lower than in other areas. I applaud the efforts of the Evangelism Department and the committee of fine youth ministers who plan and coordinate this conference. I feel that they have come up with the most outstanding and challenging conference that has ever been held in this state and I am doing everything I can to get my young people there.

My suggestion to the churches that will not be bringing their young people because of the cost is to reconsider and to look for ways to get them to Clinton. There are always people willing to help a teenager attend such a conference.

I am thankful that I am part of a church where youth ministry is a priority. Our people encourage and support our young people in many ways. If a young person can't afford to attend an event such as this, someone in the church will make sure that he goes. We must do everything we can to reach and disciple our young people no matter what the cost!

Ken Hall, minister to students  
First Church, Columbus

### Christmas day: Christ's birthday

Editor:

Christmas Day will soon be here! From childhood, adults have always regarded Christmas as a "special day" in the year. It means gifts, good food, and lots of love among family and friends.

Children especially look forward to Christmas with toys and gifts.

Christmas is a religious day to celebrate the earthly birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Christian churches highlight this day as the "birthday" of Jesus. Christmas songs and music are heard throughout the holiday season. "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "Joy to the World" are a few of the favorite songs.

Of all the holidays, the birthday of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day is the most joyous holiday of the year!

This year and in the years to come, let us all continue to honor the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Robert S. Leigh  
Jackson

### The past revisited?

Editor:

I wish to express my feelings about the current state of affairs in our convention.

Having met them before, I fear them. They come as friends with pious faces, and they talk of godliness. But it is their godliness that they stress. They do not mention a man praying on a street corner, but I see him in their faces. I hear his words in their words. "Father," he says, "I thank thee that I am not as other men are." As I see in them the man of long ago, I tremble.

Then I recall when first I met them. In gradual numbers they came to my church, a church that God had built. There, hearts were warm; and handshakes, friendly — until they arrived. Then came the whispers. "Unspiritual!" they hissed. "Liberal!" It did not matter that we were founders of that church. Nor did they care that we loved the Lord. In their piousness they prayed that my friends and I would go away. Our sins were too great for them; for we were Southern Baptists. Saddened to hear of their prayers, we humbled ourselves and left; for we recalled the words of yet another Man. "My Father's house," he said, "shall be a house of prayer."

Now, two decades since then, a majestic building points its lifeless finger toward the sky. All is dark and still within, except on Sunday mornings. The membership has dwindled. The baptistry is dry and cracked.

Now, with troubled heart, I think of our convention. Are they our leaders now? Do I hear their hisses as a scourge drives godly servants from their work? "Unspiritual!" "Moderates!" The words ride the wind. Then I see a fallen leader, in humiliation and defeat, wipe a tear and try to smile.

My mind now turns to horrors of a darker past, to another time of inquisition. I hear Augustine cry against the forces of his day. Acid and lime in the eyes of those who disagree, says the saintly man, are means of curing heretics. Beatings and bludgeonings are the kinder acts. I hear the wails of Tyndale, whose blackest sin is to give compatriots the Word of God in a language they can read and understand. Betrayed by a trusted friend, he burns at the stake. I hear the agonizing cries of Joan of Arc as she perishes upon a blazing stake. Her wretched sin is that she answers only to her God. I hear the voices of them all, and I shudder with fear.

I flinch when the modern inquisitor targets a trusted leader and falsely exposes him as a heretic. I fear death and destruction, for I know that they may come in subtle forms whose ill effects may linger on and on. I fear political power misnamed as the will of God. I am frightened by many things, but most of all I fear that God's own voice may be drowned in the winds of discord. It is then I hear him clearly speak: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor" (Rom. 8:10); "The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men..." (I Thess. 3:12).

Neda G. Hill  
Meridian

1881 — The only session of the Southern Baptist Convention that has ever been held in Mississippi met with the First Baptist Church of Columbus.

## Christmas stress

By Lacy Thompson

(ABP) — "It was the time before Christmas and all through the land / People were moaning, 'It's all out of hand. / There's so much to do and so many things. / It wears on my patience and makes my head ring.'"

No, it's not terribly original, but for many people, it is a more honest and closer-to-home rendering of a favorite Christmas poem. Or as one wag observed recently, "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la la la la. 'Tis the time of stressful folly. Fa la la la la la la la."

In so many instances, Christmas signals not a time of rejoicing but a season of stress and hectic activity. At best, the spirit of the time is threatened by the sheer momentum of the holiday — so much planning and preparing and going and shopping. Ho Ho Ho boy! What a season.

The contributing factors are many. For one, the growing commercialization of the season is hard to escape. One only has to consider how early Christmas decorations go up in stores — often right after Halloween — to realize how much the season is directed by merchants.

"We emphasize the material aspect of the season so much," says Hugh Bryan, a psychologist and member of Emmanuel Church in Alexandria, La. "We get caught up in the decorating, the meals, the events and all of those sorts of things and fail to recognize that it's the people and the relationships that are more important and that the obvious purpose of Christmas is to celebrate Christ's birth."

Persons also can find themselves caught in a financial tailspin struggling to buy and do too much.

Closely tied to commercialization is the very activity of the season, with its community functions, church events, social gatherings, shopping trips, school parties for kids and on and on. No wonder those "merry gentlemen" sought rest.

"A lot of people, especially Christians, get pushed into a feeling of guilt if they don't do everything," explains Cindy Nardini, a counselor and member of Pineville Park Church in Pineville.

Finally, many people must deal with sad memories or anniversaries at Christmas. It may be the first holiday without a certain family member present. A loved one may have died in the past year. There may have been changes in the family makeup.

In such cases, persons should acknowledge the emotion, Bryan says.

"Acknowledge that things are different and are going to be different and start creating some new traditions perhaps." Persons also may be able to use the season as a time for finalizing the grieving process, he says.

As for the other stressors, counselors offer a host of helps for those with wearing patience and ringing heads:

Focus on meaning. "I saw a billboard that said 'Jesus is the reason for the season,'" Nardini says. "And I wondered how often we forget that, even as Christians perhaps."

The pace and schedule of the holiday season continues to grow each year, often at the expense of the spiritual dimension of the season, says Jimmy Hester, who works in the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"It seems like every year there's always something added to the pressure on the family," Hester says. "In doing so, something has to give, and often it is the family time that suffers."

In some cases, churches are helping families combat that pressure, through such things as the distribution of advent materials, services oriented to helping families prepare for the Christmas season and services for persons facing their first Christmas after the loss of a loved one, Hester notes.

First Church of Asheville, N.C., co-sponsors a "Christmas Service for the Bereaved" with three area hospitals and a hospice. Now in its fourth year, the service drew 150 participants last year.

"Christmas is a stressful time for people in grief," said Pastor John Hewett. "Each day of the season requires readjustment of family traditions and sacred memories. Every ornament, every song, every sight and smell remind survivors of experiences once shared with the deceased."

But families themselves also need to work to give the Christmas season meaning, Hester and others insist.

Nardini urges individuals and families to use every few minutes they can to focus on the meaning of Christmas. "Set aside time for a daily devotional or prayer. Do things that will force you to remember what the season is about."

Thompson is associate editor, LOUISIANA BAPTIST MESSAGE.

## Angel Tree inspires father, son reunion

ATLANTA (BP) — Christmas is a time for angels, and that's what Chip Pohl and his family have become to a federal prisoner.

Last year the Pohls, members of Eastside Church in Marietta, Ga., were sick and tired of the hype that Christmas has come wrapped up in lately, says Pohl. As a family, they looked for a ministry that would typify Christianity and give a special meaning to the holiday.

Inspired by messages their pastor Clark Hutchinson delivered on getting out of the pew and involved in ministry, the Pohls decided to participate in Angel Tree. A ministry sponsored by Prison Fellowship, Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts for prisoners' children.

The Pohls delivered a game and Ranger Rick magazine subscription to 6-year-old Adam Meacham whose

father, Jon, was in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

A bright man with a military intelligence background, Meacham landed in Leavenworth after unemployment and debt led him to drug abuse and a series of related crimes. Divorced and imprisoned, Meacham committed his life to Christ. Hearing of Angel Tree, Meacham filled out an application for his son.

Like a snowball, Pohl's idea grew to a surprise reunion.

In March, Pohl and his son Andy drove Adam to Leavenworth for Meacham's birthday. Father and son had been separated for 18 months.

The visit, says Pohl, was a chance for Adam to experience first hand the love and care of his father and to see the change in his life.



# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 12, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Zimbabwe Experience

by Tommy Tutor, Pastor  
Oakhurst Baptist, Clarksdale

In 1976 I had the opportunity to spend five weeks in Kwe-Kwe, Zimbabwe. We were there on a stewardship and evangelism mission. I was much impressed with the openness of the Zimbabwe people.

This mission trip was even more rewarding. The country has a new government which is patterned after England. There is more unity and less tension there.

My assignment this time was Sanyati: This is 125 miles southwest from Harare, the capital. Baptists have a church of about 300 members, a school with 468 enrolled in high school and more than 1,000 in elementary school.



Also, Baptists have a 100 bed hospital and a nurse training school in Sanyati. Paul Boone is one of the surgeons there pictured with another surgeon Andrew Dylala. A third doctor is stationed there, Maurice Randall. The hospital had more than 1,800 babies delivered this last year.

The school is making a major contribution to both education and Christianity. The Bible is openly taught for credit in high school. The faculty is made of qualified Christian teachers.

In an 11:00 worship service of the adult congregation, I was amazed at the way the people greeted one another. They simply went out side and formed a huge circle. Then each person in succession shook everybody's hand. This is an area around Sanyati where people from poverty areas are being resettled.



They are given 12 acres of land for subsistence farming and access to communal lands for their animals. This reminds me of 40 acres and a mule in America.

Many new communities are springing up, and therefore, many new churches are needed to accommodate these. The Mississippi/Zimbabwe partnership hopes to establish 80 new churches there in the next three years.



Ant hills are everywhere in Zimbabwe. I wondered why so many. Then I discovered that the people made brick from the soil in the ant hill. The picture indicates new brick which soon will be burned for the building of a new church out in the bush.

These days in Zimbabwe were a high experience in my ministry. I was impressed with Southern Baptist missionaries as to their ministry and level of dedication. They sacrifice according to American standards, but to them their ministry was simply first priority. I sensed no feeling of sacrifice on the missionaries' part. They were happy and fulfilled in their work.

In the Sanyati revival the attendance was 750 to 1,000. We had 486 decisions. Of these 209 were first decisions to receive Christ. The ages ran from 13 to 80. It was a thrill to see such hunger and openness to the gospel, and, to see the power of the gospel at work in such a wonderful way.

I would encourage our pastors, staff people, and lay people to give prayerful consideration to be a part of this wonderful opportunity of sharing the gospel with those who are so eager to hear. Maybe God will make this a highlight experience in your life also.

HT

This is one in a series of articles about the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership. More articles will follow.

## MISSIONARY MOMENTS

### WEEKLY PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONS SERVING THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



104 different missionaries are featured on perforated calendar pages which can be used in each of a church's Sunday services as offertory prayer guides. Your church may order them at no cost by returning the order form below to:

Stewardship Department/MBCB  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

(clip and return)

### 1992 Missionary Moments Order Form

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Ordering \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## "If you hadn't come..."

by Charles Whitten,  
Coordinator for Prayer Ministry, MBCB

I stood on the grounds of the Indiana Baptist Camp last summer. It was following a message on salvation and life dedication that I had given the night before. G.A.s and Acteens were milling around during their free time. Suddenly I became aware of a nine year-old G.A., Kelli, who had slipped her arm around my waist and she said softly, "If you hadn't come, I'd be lost."

That set me to thinking. If many people hadn't prayed I wouldn't have been there to tell Kelli that God doesn't want her or anybody else in the world to be lost.

I thought of my mother, who prayed before I was born that I would do God's will. I thought of the loving, supportive people in the Beulah Baptist Church in Choctaw County, who thought they saw promise in me. I thought of Mississippi College and Dr. M.O. Patterson, my Bible professor. He said after hearing my testimony, "Young man, if you are sincere in what you say, God is calling you to preach."

I thought of the churches I pastored in Mississippi and in Kentucky. I thought of professors, Student Volunteer Band and missionary speakers at Southern Seminary. I thought of Baptists all over our convention who sent my wife and me to the mission field, with a promise to pray. All of this made me know that I was passed from "heart to heart" in prayer.

Thank God for intercessory prayer, Kelli. Without it, I don't believe I'd even be here!

HT



## Christmas is for Reaching People

by Keith Wilkinson, Director of Sunday School Department, MBCB

Give people who attend your church's Christmas events, worship services, and Sunday School classes, an opportunity to:

- Respond to the gospel message
- Know about and be enrolled in an on-going Bible study group
- Identify their need for your church's ministry

Simple forms can be included in pew racks or Christmas programs for that purpose. Perhaps the best way of all is to let every guest know that your church stands ready to minister, to provide Bible study, and to help people come to know the Savior whose birth we celebrate.



Christmas is a great time of the year to reach people!

## Help Your Members Rediscover

*The Joy of Their Salvation!*



"Like a shepherd  
He will tend His flock.

In His arm He will gather  
the lambs. And carry  
them in His bosom.

He will gently lead the  
nursing ewes.

Isaiah 40:11

January Bible Study 1992 provides adults and youth the opportunity to rediscover the blessings of their salvation. When they study *Isaiah: God Is My Salvation*, adults and youth will understand how Israel's sin led to God's judgment and redemptive love. It will also help them affirm and continue to experience God's salvation and love in their own lives. Studies for preschoolers and children provide Bible study experiences appropriate for those age groups.

## GA Day at MC

January 18, 1992

For all girls in grades 1-6 and their leaders

Lady Chocs  
VS  
West Georgia  
College



Registration  
Deadline:  
January 13, 1992

No refunds for  
the cost of the  
meal after  
Wednesday,  
January 15

Saturday, January 18, 1992

3 p.m. - conclusion of Lady Chocs  
game with West Georgia  
(approximately 7:30 p.m.)

Mississippi College Coliseum (the  
Golden Dome), Clinton, MS

\$7.50 Per Person (includes meal,  
ballgame, insurance)



# HOUSE OF JONS



"How can I get the gospel to persons who refuse to come to church?"

## Outreach Bible Study...

is a plan to take the gospel to the lost and unchurched. Using eight weeks to teach the Gospel of Luke, a church can reach, minister, and witness to persons who have not yet come to the church buildings. Now even the smallest of churches can expand its ministries of salvation and love into homes, offices, recreation centers, factories, prisons, colleges, and military bases.

With Outreach Bible Study a church can literally take the gospel anywhere its people are willing to teach the Bible to unsaved and unchurched persons.

Outreach Bible Study lessons are specially designed to lead participants to explore and discover biblical truths about life's questions and problems. Bible study sessions point to Jesus for answers and solutions. Outreach Bible Study also gives unchurched individuals a relationship with a local church—a relationship that can continue beyond the eight weeks of the study.



## What Bible study materials are available?

Outreach Bible Study materials are written for adults, college students, and youth. The materials are written in a simple format. They were designed to be used in a living room, office, recreation room, or dormitory.

Everything needed for the study is included in the teacher's book. Suggestions on how to get the group started and how to use the materials, records, and teaching helps are included.

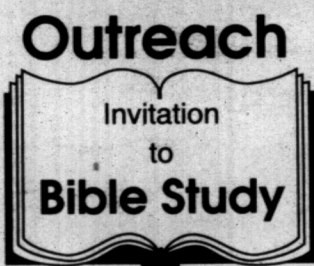
The participants, book contains helps on the upcoming study session and general reading about that subject. The materials are portable, easy to use, and exciting in content.

Characteristics of Outreach Bible Study materials are:

- ☐ Evangelistic
- ☐ Life needs focused in content
- ☐ Church sponsored
- ☐ Short term—eight weeks
- ☐ Undated—may be started anytime
- ☐ Christ centered
- ☐ Strongly Bible based
- ☐ Especially written for unsaved and unchurched.

The Gospel of Luke provides life-centered biblical content for Outreach Bible Study for youth, college students and adults. The Bible content for youth, college students and adults features common titles, themes, or life needs. Because each target group learns differently and has different life needs, distinctive Bible teaching aims are used. The New American Standard Bible is the text.

An administrative guide, Outreach Bible Study Planning and Promotion Guide, helps pastors, church staff members, and other church leaders plan, promote, and develop Outreach Bible Study in their community.



Contact the Sunday School Office for help in training Outreach Bible Study leaders. Curriculum is ordered on the undated literature order form. The Administrative Guide is available at the Baptist Book Store.

## DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING ANNOUNCES TOP AWARDS

### TOP FIVE CHURCHES IN DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING STUDY COURSE AWARDS 1991-92

1. Weir Baptist Church, Weir  
Danny Bryant, pastor
2. Calvary Baptist Church, West Point  
Walter Frederick, pastor
3. First Baptist Church, Sardis  
Jerry Sanford, pastor
4. West End Baptist Church, West Point  
Terry Partin, pastor
5. New Hope Baptist Church, Gulfport  
Richard Wilson, pastor

### TOP FIVE CHURCHES IN BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY COURSE AWARDS 1991-92

1. First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Randal VonKanel, pastor
2. First Baptist Church, Magee  
Oliver Ladnier, pastor
3. Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland  
Eugene Walden, pastor
4. First Baptist Church, Jackson  
Frank Pollard, pastor
5. First Baptist Church, Pascagoula  
Harold Bryson, interim

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 1992  
Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

- Gary Berry, Host Pastor
- Joel Ray, Host Director of Missions, Lebanon Assoc.

The conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Monday and will close at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday. "The music and preaching are going to be glorious," says J. Garland McKee, Evangelism Director, MBCB. "We are giving strong emphasis this year on attendance of the laity. It is hoped that the lay people of our churches will come in great numbers by car, bus and van. I can assure you that this conference will be one of the most memorable ever in Mississippi," says McKee.

## WITNESS COMMITMENT DAY

...for Mississippi Baptists is Sunday, January 12, 1992. On that day, it is our prayer that every church will be engaged in an emphasis on verbal witnessing to admitted lost persons. If a day other than January 12, fits your church calendar better, then use that day, but it is our prayerful hope that every Mississippi Baptist Church will be involved in a Witness Commitment Day in 1992.

Pastor, we trust God will lead you to preach a message on witnessing and that you will extend an invitation to your people to commit themselves to become LifeTime Witnesses on some kind of regular basis. You are soon to receive Witness Commitment Cards in number to accommodate your people who will make commitments to LifeTime Witnessing on the Sunday you have your Witness Commitment Day. This is one more way that our churches can be led to be actively involved in "Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus."

J. Garland McKee  
Evangelism Director, MBCB



# Church Business Administrators Conference

**January 23, 1992**

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church

787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson

Jointly sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, and Hinds-Madison Baptist Association

This conference will offer *three tracks* to choose from:

**TRACK I:** Business Administrators, to include "Tax Law," by James Dossett;

"Conducting Effective Meetings," by Jehu Brabham;

"Security - Office, Premise, Personal," by Linda Woolley

**TRACK II:** Food Service/Maintenance Management, led by Ron Chandler

**TRACK III:** Commercial Driver's License Training, instructed by Bob Beasley

## Program Personnel

BOB BEASLEY, instructor, Southern Drivers' Academy, Jackson

JEHU BRABHAM, business administrator, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson

RON CHANDLER, minister of administration, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, TN

JAMES DOSSETT, partner; Dossett, Goode, Barnes, and Broom law firm; Jackson

LINDA WOOLLEY, Crime Prevention Unit of Jackson Police Department

*There is no charge for attending this conference; however, there is a \$10.00 cost for those who will participate in the driver's license training. This fee should be sent to James Webster, Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson 39213.*

**Registration** is necessary so that adequate plans can be made. Please complete the form below and return *prior to January 16* to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P O Box 530, Jackson 39205.

For more information call **Julius Thompson, 968-3800 extension 3908**, or **James Webster, 362-8676**.

## Registration Form

Church Business Administrators Conference  
January 23, 1992

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the following: TRACK I ☐ TRACK II ☐ TRACK III ☐

## Brown-Davis Award given to McCall

Emmanuel McCall, recipient of the first Brown-Davis Award, challenged participants at Camp Garaywa not to "Leave Our Brother Behind" based on Genesis 43:1-5. The Garaywa event recognized 16 Black Southern Baptist Churches in Mississippi. McCall said "when we stand before the Righteous Judge, He will not ask about the honors and recognitions we have received. He will not be concerned about what positions of authority we have held. He will not ask how much we attended church or how much we gave. He will only want to know about where we left our brothers. God is still asking: Where is your brother? God is still visiting humankind, desiring to be in loving fellowship. While he could enlist whatever measures He wishes to bring all men to Him, God gives us the opportunity of joining Him in His purposes. We cannot leave our brothers behind."

According to Richard Brogan, consultant Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, Timothy Benjamin Brown and William Penn Davis had worked for racial reconciliation during the 1950s and 60s giving leadership to rebuilding of churches torched during the Civil Rights era. The award cites McCall's leadership for the past 25 years and his improvement of persons to become ambassadors for Christ across racial barriers throughout America.

According to Brogan, the Brown-Davis Award is given in their memory to those persons who model Racial Reconciliation.



Richard Brogan presiding at the Brown-Davis Conference

McCall is a native of Sharon, Pennsylvania. He received the M. Div. and M.R.E. from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and a Doctorate of Ministry from Emory University. He is presently the pastor of New Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

## New Work Fellowship Elects Officers



The Cooperative Missions Department announces the following officers for 1992: (l to r) Leon Emery, Vice President, is the retired director of Church Administration, MBCB, and presently serves as a New Work Specialist for the Cooperative Mission Department; Louis Lamar, President, is a pastor of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Tupelo; Terry Minton, Secretary, is pastor of Horizon Baptist Church, Madison; Marvin Cox, Program Chairman, is the past president and serves as Director of Missions in Union County.

The New Work Fellowship meets each year during the Mississippi Baptist Convention at a breakfast meeting, during the Evangelism Conference at a breakfast, and in other areas of the state twice a year for learning and sharing times.

For additional information, please contact any of the officers or J. Ray Grissett, Director of the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## "50 Years of Caring"

Lowell Lawson, Director of Chaplaincy Development, Home Mission Board, presents Chaplain Ed Holmes, President of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association with a certificate of "50 Years of Caring" presented by the Chaplains Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Richard Brogan, Cooperative Missions Department serves as consultant to the Association.



Horace Kerr

Frank Pollard

Bill Tanner

Frank Stagg

Sid Buckley

W.E. Thorn

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Give a gift of writing

Need suggestions for your Christmas gift list? How about gifts that involve writing? If it's too late for this year, you could begin now, for next year.

1. First, write a check for the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering, in honor of Him whose birthday we celebrate.

2. Compile a family history or a family storybook. Interview family members and ask them to contribute favorite tales from the past. Give it to someone in the family you know would treasure it.

**AUNT KATE MCWILLIAMS REACHED AGE 100 ON NOV. 22.** She is the oldest member of the Corinth Baptist Church, Simpson County. Last April I wrote a column about the important part laughter has played in her life. Now I wish I had written down more of the stories she has told me during the 36 years I've known her.

Her family gave her a birthday party Nov. 24 at her daughter Hazel's house. No way she would miss her own party — so she came in an ambulance. She was married to Uncle William for 70 years before he died, and continued living in her own little house near Magee.

Last year she fell and cracked one hip, but kept going on a walker. Recently she fell again and cracked the other hip and so was in the hospital. Her party day was sunshiny, with a sharp wind. Two hundred or so of us ate lunch in Hazel's yard, and tasted birthday cake, while Aunt Kate sat inside in an easy chair, flowers on her shoulder. Every guest went to her individually, some more than once, to receive her hugs and her comments. Her pastor, Billy Guest, led in a prayer of thanksgiving for her life and asked especial blessings on her, the mother of 10, the grandmother of 25,

the great-grandmother of 59, and the great-great-grandmother of eight.

3. Write a poem to or about someone you care about. Frame it — perhaps embellish it with your original art — and give it to that person.

4. Compile a photograph album, using pictures of the person in your family you want to give it to. Or this could be a gift for a friend, if you have the photographs available. Write captions for each picture, recalling an event related to that picture.

When each of my nieces and my nephew reached age 16, I gave them such albums as birthday presents. I compiled photos of their lives from babyhood until age 16 and wrote my memories related to each picture. I began with telling my memories of the day they were born. A similar project could be done by a mother-in-law for a daughter-in-law, "The Life of Your Husband." Or for a son-in-law, "Life of Your Wife."

5. For small children, write original stories and make them into a booklet. Use the children's own names and names of their pets and playmates.

6. Do you have a memento of some special occasion, such as a program cover, that you could autograph and frame, and give to a person who shared the occasion? Write a note about the memory it provokes, to accompany the gift.

7. Write letters for someone who can't see to write or who is too sick or weak or gnarled to write.

8. Write memories of your childhood Christmases, with vivid details of sights and sounds. Tape these and give a copy to each member of your family.

9. Write a letter to an unsaved friend. Tell him or her what Christmas means to you.

10. Write a letter of appreciation to someone who has meant a lot to you.

## Annuity Board expands comprehensive medical plans

Beginning Jan. 1, 1992, Annuity Board comprehensive medical plan participants can save money on medical care at facilities in more than 90 locations across the country.

"Our enhanced benefits network will stretch from coast to coast," said Joel Mathis, Annuity Board senior vice president of the Insurance Division. "We won't have locations in every state on Jan. 1," he explained, "but we will be well represented in every region of the country. We're excited that all of our medical plan participants will now be eligible to take advantage of their medical plans' enhanced benefits."

The enhanced benefits are available

to participants in the church, seminarian, and group comprehensive medical plans when they use certain preferred health-care providers, such as doctors, hospitals, and outpatient clinics. The enhanced benefits generally include a reduction in the deductible and copayment and an increase in the percentage of reimbursement.

"Medical plan participants and covered dependents can receive enhanced benefits when they use any participating provider, regardless of location," Mathis said.

The Annuity Board began offering enhanced benefits on July 1, 1991, when plan members in 10 locations become eligible for enhanced benefits when they use providers in PruNetwork, The Prudential's preferred provider organization. On Jan. 1, 1992, 33 more PruNetwork service areas will be available, and all comprehensive medical plan participants will be eligible.

On Sept. 13, the Annuity Board, in cooperation with a number of Baptist hospitals, launched the Baptist Hospitals Enhanced Benefits Program. All comprehensive medical plan participants are now eligible for enhanced benefits at eight Baptist hospitals in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. On Jan. 1, 32 additional hospitals in eight more states will begin participating.

## Jackson County sends Russian Bibles by boat

W. R. Storie, director of ministries, Jackson County Association, said that the Jackson County Port Authority reports that Russian meat boats will soon be coming again to the port at Pascagoula.

"We have sent 750 Russian language Bibles and 50 English Bibles to Russia already this year," said Storie, "and now look forward to sending more."

Thursday, December 12, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Draper, Land will co-chair task force

By Louis Moore and Linda Lawson

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman has named the chief executives of the Sunday School Board and the Christian Life Commission to co-chair the Family Ministry Task Force he created earlier this year.

SSB President James T. Draper Jr. and CLC Executive Director Richard Land succeed Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, N.M., who resigned as chairman due to the illness of his father. Lowery will continue as a member of the task force.

In naming Draper and Land to chair the group, Chapman said he believes their appointments "will pool the resources of two of our agencies in combating the erosion of Judeo-Christian family values in America."

In dealing with issues of applied Christianity, the CLC program statement specifies the agency will help Southern Baptists "become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to such aspects of daily living as family life."

Other members of the group are:

Suzanne Groce, former missionary to Ethiopia, now living in Gainesville, Fla.; Tom King, minister of family enrichment at Two Rivers Church in Nashville; Kay W. Moore, freelance writer and family life speaker from Nashville; Ron Mumbower, director of counseling at First Church of Jackson, Miss.; Charles Page, pastor of First Church of Charlotte, N.C.; and Jay Wolf, pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va.

Moore writes for CLC and Lawson writes for BSSB.

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# Names in the news



About 175 women from National and Southern Baptist churches gathered at the St. Elmo Missionary Baptist Church in Laurel for the World Day of Prayer promoted by the WMU. Shown are the women who gave leadership for the event. From left, they are Mrs. Dale Scoper, president of the WMU for Jones Association; Mrs. Alma Barnes, president of the Women's Convention of the East Mississippi Baptist State Convention; and Miss Alma Hunt, the retired executive director of Woman's Missionary Union. This is the eleventh year for this joint fellowship of National and Southern Baptist Women.

Shane Price was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by Ingram Church, Baldwin.



Price is available for supply, revivals, and pastoral work. For engagements or information, call 728-7955 in Booneville.

John and Kathy Vaughn, missionaries to Brazil, are on furlough. They will return to the field May, 1992 (not January as previously stated). Address: 4304 35th St., Meridian, MS 39301, phone (601) 482-0976.

## BOARD

From page 3

pean committee of the board, were to meet, discuss, and possibly offer a recommendation to the full board meeting, Dec. 6-7.

The letter from the MBCB was sent to Terry Williams of Batesville, Dan Watts of Jackson, and Randy Davis of Vancleave.

The letter noted concerns such as the doors of the eastern bloc being open to the gospel, relationships with European Baptists need to be protected, the importance of maintaining "our integrity in commitments made to protect our Christian witness," and that "consideration should be given to the negative impact this controversy may have" on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The MBCB voted not to send copies of the letter to FMB President Keith Parks or any other official of the FMB. The meeting was closed with witnessing testimonies.

Dan Browning, assistant professor of biblical studies at William Carey College, contributed 21 articles to the Holman Bible Dictionary, which was published in Summer 1991. Another article, "Tirzah," appeared in the Summer 1991 issue of *Biblical Illustrator*, and "Land of Goshen" has been accepted for publication in the Winter 1993 issue.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Southern Baptist Eleanor Crook of San Marcos, Tex., has been approved to serve on the board of directors of Bread for the World, the Christian citizens' hunger movement. She joins two other Southern Baptist members: Pat Ayres of Austin, Tex., and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, Ohio.

## Missionary news

Hal and Lou Ann Lee, missionaries, are on the field (address: 2 bis, rue des Anglais, 91300 Massy, France). He serves as associate to area director for Europe. He was born in Ruston, La. The former Lou Ann Green, she was born in Independence, La. Both lived in several Mississippi towns.

Billy and Gerry Colston, missionaries to Korea, are in the States (address: 704 Ponderosa, Starkville, Miss. 39759). He was born in Kosciusko, Miss. She is the former Gerry Rutland of Amite, La.

Kenneth and Ruth Bailey, missionaries to Bolivia, are on the field (address: Caxilla 3168, Santa Cruz, Bolivia). He is a native of Vardaman, Miss., and she is the former Ruth Holder of Houston, Miss.

Mary Jo Stewart, missionary, has transferred to Kenya (address: P. O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). A native of Caesar, Miss., she was executive secretary of the Arizona Woman's Missionary Union, Phoenix, at the time of her appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972.

## To evangelize North America: new churches

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — New churches are required if we are to thoroughly evangelize North America, Charles L. Chaney urged participants during the New Work/Language Missions Conference Nov. 25-26 at the Missouri Baptist Convention offices in Jefferson City.

"The United States of America is one of the great mission fields of the world," said Chaney, vice president of the Home Mission Board's extension section and past president of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

"The U.S. is not a Christian nation that needs to be fixed but is a mission field that needs to be evangelized thoroughly.

"That can only be done if our churches are multiplied," Chaney said.

The record of Southern Baptist churches starting new congregations in the last 10 years "had probably exceeded any decade in the 145-year history of the convention, even the total number of new starts in the heydays of the 1950s," said Chaney.

"By the end of 1992, the Southern Baptist Convention will have more than 45,000 congregations," said Chaney. At more than 1,000 annual new church starts, the convention is "on schedule" to reach its goal of 50,000 congregations established by the year 2000.

"Why should we start churches? Why should you and I lend our moral influence and spend our spiritual capital to persuade our churches to start new congregations?" he asked.

"We should start churches because of the constant obligation laid on us by lost men and women," he said. "The most effective way to reach any person for Christ is through a church that worships, witnesses, and serves using that person's language."

Citing a paper prepared by Orrin D. Morris, Chaney estimated there were more than 172 million unsaved people in the U.S. "More lost people live in this nation than are in the total populations of all but four nations of the world," he said.

Many unsaved people in America may not speak English as a first language and may not live a middle-class lifestyle, Chaney said. "The most effective evangelistic method in the history of Christianity is a church indigenous to the people among whom it is planted," he explained.

Another reason for establishing new works is the "American crises in morality," Chaney said.

Speaking of abortion, murder, and abuse, he said human life in the nation had been "devalued" and that Christian moral influences on society were declining.

"The best thing we can do to halt North America's slide into moral chaos is to plant Bible-preaching, Bible-living, and soul-winning churches in all segments of society," he said. "Only by multiplying colonies of righteousness all across this continent can this moral decline be stopped."

## Staff changes



Carter

Sylvarena Church, Sylvarena, Smith County, called Curtis E. Carter of Raymond as minister of music and youth earlier this year. Carter had served in a similar position at Mountain Creek Church since April of 1988.

Newhebron Church, Lawrence Association, has called Charles E. Davis Sr. as pastor, effective Nov. 25. He received his education at Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies. His previous place of service was Glade Church in Laurel.

First Church, Canton, has called Bill Hurt as pastor. Hurt is a native of Cleveland and a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He was licensed to the ministry in 1982 by Immanuel Church, Cleveland, where his father, James A. Hurt, served as pastor. He was ordained to the



Hurt

gospel ministry in 1986 by First Church, Clinton. Before going to Canton, Hurt served as pastor of Sparta Church in Sparta, Ky. and Valley View in Vine Grove, Ky.

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1860 — The Old Chapel was completed at Mississippi College. This was the first cooperative building project undertaken by Mississippi Baptists. The same year an endowment fund of \$100,000 was completed for the college.





## Chaplains Association elects officers

The newly elected 1992 officers of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association are from left: Bill Jones, state coordinator; Joe Stovall, vice-president; Jimmy Garrard, president; Drew Blanton, secretary/treasurer; and George Crosby, editor. The next meeting will be a luncheon on the William Carey College campus on Jan. 28. Reservations for the luncheon can be made through the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

## Carey alumni elect officers

David Spencer, pastor of First Church, Long Beach, was elected president of the William Carey Alumni Association for 1992 during homecoming weekend on Nov. 2. Spencer is a 1969 graduate of William Carey College and presently is a member of the board of trustees. He also holds degrees from Southeastern Seminary and New Orleans Seminary.

Spencer has held several positions in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, including attendance chairman for Foreign Mission Board appointment service and a member of the Committee on Nominations for 1988.

Other William Carey College Alumni Association officers for 1992 include vice-president, John Clearman of Hattiesburg, secretary, Patsy Meador Bateman of Laurel, and campus representative, Melinda Runnels of Hattiesburg.

# Research shows 92% of Southern Baptist churches minister to needs

ATLANTA (BP) — Ninety-two percent of Southern Baptist churches are involved in some type of ministry to needy people, new research conducted by the Home Mission Board reveals.

Results indicate Southern Baptists, without realizing it, have already exceeded the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goal of 75% of Southern Baptist Convention churches involved in ministry projects by AD 2000.

"It is time for us to say 'thank you' to SBC churches for all they are doing to minister to the needs of people

who are hurting," HMB director of missions ministries Beverly Ham-mack told state directors of missions meeting in Atlanta.

Virtually all SBC churches with more than 300 members have at least one community ministry, and the typical large church has nine different ministries. Most churches with less than 100 members provide three types of ministries.

The average SBC church offers six ministries. The research indicated

that 68% of SBC churches offer financial assistance, 63% provide a food pantry, 54% have nursing home ministries, 40% participate in a clothing closet, and 37% provide transportation assistance.

More than 10% of the responding churches offered, in order of responses, jail or prison ministries, disaster relief, children's clubs, emergency shelter, home delivery of meals, parents' day out, exercise class, or teen clubs.

# capsules

**200TH NEW YORK ANNIVERSARY:** The BWA congratulated the American Baptist churches of metropolitan New York "with much joy" when they celebrated 200 years of Baptist witness in New York city, Nov. 2. In a letter to ABC Metro, read by Wendy Ryan, Denton Lotz told New York Baptists that he hopes "New York will experience a revival of faith and a renewed commitment to the evangelistic witness of the church in an urban setting."

**NOVEMBER CP REBOUNDS, TOPS LAST YEAR, BUDGET:** NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists gave \$12,204,115 to the SBC Cooperative Program in November, exceeding the monthly budget requirement and receipts for the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer. Still, the year-to-date total for 1991-92 fell short compared to the same two-month period a year ago: \$22,897,708 to \$23,123,281. The November 1991 monthly percentage increase over last year was 1.30% (\$156,349) while the year-to-date (two months) shortage from the similar period last year was 0.98% (\$225,573). Designated gifts were up 6.10% in November compared to a year ago: \$2,292,921 to \$2,161,026. That kept designated gifts for year-to-date above last year: \$3,772,442 compared to \$3,616,667 or a 4.31% increase.

**DEATH OF JOSE PEREIRA:** Jose dos Reis Pereira of Brazil, editor of the national convention's paper, *O Journal Batista*, for 24 years, died Oct. 15. One of the most influential voices Baptists had in Brazil, Pereira served as pastor of the Rocha Baptist Church; was a professor of church history and author of various books. Pereira served various terms as a member of the General Council and other committees and commissions of the BWA. When the 10th World Congress was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1960 he was chairman of the evangelism committee that prepared for the final session in the Maracana Stadium when Billy Graham spoke to more than 150,000 people.

**TWO CHURCHES ORGANIZED IN "ATHEISTIC" ALBANIA:** TIRANA, Albania (WEIS) — At least two Christian churches have been started in Albania as a result of evangelistic efforts in July and October. About 100 new Albanian Christians converted in the July evangelistic campaign are meeting for weekly worship services in the Palace of Culture in Tirana, the capital of Albania. The church is called the "Fellowship of the Disciples of the Lord." In the southern city of Korca, a second congregation of about 60 new believers is meeting in the Culture Palace. Evangelism, church planting, relief and development efforts in Albania are being coordinated by the Albanian Encouragement Project (AEP), a coalition of 25 different mission organizations concerned about reaching the people of Albania with the gospel.

## FMB

From page 3

Several trustees throughout the sessions insisted they do not wish to force others into theological lock step.

Trustee Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said "under no circumstances" are the trustees asking "that anybody walk in lock step with us. That does not even happen on the faculty of Criswell College. But what we are saying is that it is not conceivable to Southern Baptists to support those things that call into question the veracity and truthfulness of the Word of God."

The European Baptists, who believe the seminary does uphold the Word of God, said they would accept whatever decision was made on defunding but warned the breach of trust would affect future relationships.

The sessions preceded a meeting of the full FMB trustee board Dec. 9-11 in Richmond. The funding matter could be reconsidered at that time, but Parks said he could not predict what action the trustees would take on the matter.

Although declining to recommend restoration of funds, the trustee committee agreed to establish a committee of staff and trustees to meet with European Baptist leaders to discuss how they might re-establish partnership relations in Europe. The committee will report back to the board in April.

But European Baptist leaders left the meeting, which began and ended with closed sessions, telling reporters the discussions had left them feeling pessimistic about rebuilding relationships damaged by the defunding.

"We need to have this partnership and I hope we find a way," said Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

"But at this moment I don't see a practical way to restore fellowship and trust. Oct. 9 is a date from which we have to start anew." Trustees voted 35-28 on that date to defund the Ruschlikon seminary and redirect the \$365,000 to other theological needs in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Both Walter and Wiard Popkes of Germany, chairman of the Ruschlikon trustees, explained they had understood the concerns that had been relayed by FMB staff. But, they said, the European Baptist Federation, which now owns the seminary, has the responsibility to decide on theological matters and policy related to Europe — not FMB trustees.

In an emotional session on the first day of the meeting, several trustees apologized to Walter, Popkes, and Hopper for their precipitous action in defunding without notice or consultation and for the hurt caused by that action. They asked the European leaders to forgive them. Popkes, Walter, and Hopper said they would do so.

That seemed to be the consensus of the group as the first day closed with the European leaders asked to return the next morning and respond to a three-point proposal by trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Kentucky.

Hancock said he would recommend trustees restore the \$365,000 for 1992 "if there can be a positive response" from the European Baptist leaders on the proposal. It asked seminary leaders (1) "acknowledge their insensitivity to the conservative concerns" of the FMB trustees regarding the seminary's theological direction, (2) provide FMB trustees with advance "awareness" of the selection of professors to teach there, but "not to determine or dictate policy" and (3) give an accounting of funds received from all U.S. sources other than the Foreign Mission Board.

The trustee committee added a fourth point: that they acknowledge their own insensitivity for failing to consult with the seminary leaders in advance of the defunding.

The next morning Walter and Popkes, following a discussion of what the trustees mean by "conservatism," declined to accept the three points.

Walter said acceptance would allow FMB trustees to intervene in the work of the trustees of a seminary now owned by the autonomous European Baptist Federation and would set "a pattern" for that type of partnership with other Baptist bodies in Europe.

In 1989 FMB trustees transferred the property to European Baptist ownership.

"We understand partnership as being a partnership among equal partners," Walter said. "We understand that partnership means to have a mutual respect for the unique position and the autonomy of the partners."

Popkes said European Baptists fear involvement with "militant fundamentalism" and being drawn into destructive internal conflict.

"What has been going on in the SBC... frightens us," he said. "It is a spirit that would work out in control. It doesn't start from confidence and trust, but from control. It reminds one of the situation we just got rid of in some of the communist countries."

His comments brought a strong response from SBC President Morris Chapman, an ex officio trustee of the Foreign Mission Board, who said such fears misrepresent "any thought or person known to me in Southern Baptist life." He said European Baptists should not interpret discussion on financial support for Ruschlikon as a lack of interest in working in partnership with European Baptists to reach the world for Christ.

O'Brien and Toalston write for FMB.



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## MORE CONVENTIONS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — The ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION meeting in Little Rock on Nov. 19-20 at Geyer Springs First Church, elected its first layman as president in more than 60 years.

William "Buddy" Sutton, an attorney and member of Little Rock Immanuel Church, was elected in a 485-339 vote over David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association. Sutton was a central figure in the 1989 Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade and headed a recent successful fight against legalized lottery in the state.

Included in the 15 resolutions passed by the convention were: opposition to the ordination of women as pastors, support of the traditional family, opposition to active euthanasia, and opposition to the export of tobacco and alcohol products to Taiwan and other East Asian countries.

## Just for the Record



An Acteen Studiact recognition service was held Sept. 29 at First Church, Booneville. Pictured, from left, first row, GA crown bearers are Lauren Ford, Jana Prichard, Maggie Caver, and Rebecca Falkner; second row, Marjean Patterson, state WMU director; Studiact Queens Melissa Chase, Tonya Morgan, Holly Bonds, and Andrea Honeycutt; and Jan Cossitt, state Acteen leader. Acteen leaders not pictured are Blanche Carter and Carol Dickerson. Marion Duncan is WMU director. Bill Duncan is pastor.



Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Baptist Student Union raised money for missions with a flea market on Dec. 2. Students who helped coordinate the event are, kneeling from left, Stacy Pennock and Amanda Jones, radiography students. Seated from left are Angele Morton, Tara Wyatt, radiography students; Angela Patterson, medical technology student; June Applewhite, school of radiography instructor; and Debbie Rawson, school of medical technology instructor.

The youth of Hebron Church, Sardi, will present a contemporary Christmas drama entitled "To All People" on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted for the youth fund.

The music ministry at First Church, Madison, will present "Christmas Is Calling You Home." It will be aired over ACTS nationally on Sat., Dec. 21 at 9 p.m. and Thurs., Dec. 26 at 8 p.m.

Country Woods Church, 6737 Siwell Road, Jackson, will present a Living Nativity Scene, Dec. 19, 20, and 21, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Gary M. Bunch is pastor.

A Live Manger Scene will be reenacted at Crestview Church, Petal, on Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.-10 p.m. It will consist of Brad Griffin, music director, and the adult choir. Everyone is invited said Raymond Parkin, pastor.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, will present its annual Christmas music, "Shine the Light of Christmas" in the evening service, Sunday, Dec. 15. The choir is under the direction of Stephen Bath. Bryan Abel is pastor.

Kathy Thibodeaux and Ballet Magnificat will present "A Christmas Festival" at the Jackson City Auditorium, Saturday, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 22. Free tickets available at all Bebop locations and area Christian book stores. Canned goods will be collected for the Community Stewpot Ministries. For more information, call 982-1920.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, set a goal of \$2,200 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, to be raised by Dec. 8. The total amount raised as of that date was \$2,271, which was an average of \$75 per active resident family. Henry J. Bennett is pastor.

## WALLEY

From page 3

of this state to the other about the need for the whole convention to get back to basics and get involved in saving souls rather than bickering.

I am sincere when I say that if we don't do that, we're in trouble. And I think it's the only salvation for the SBC — to get back to what the convention was called to do, get lost people to Jesus.

I believe we can keep the state convention together. My prayer is that somehow this spirit can be brought to bear in other states as well.

It appears we have polarized on the SBC level. Getting back to the basics, though, means not only missions, but the local church and the work there.

Owen Cooper and I were close friends for about 25 years. It was his

hope and my hope that more lay people would get involved in missions, not only at the state level, but worldwide.

BR: How would you do this, to get them involved in work outside the four walls of the church building?

Walley: I think they are going to have to accept places of responsibility and not only accept it, but really do something about it, to become involved.

BR: If you could plan and live your life over, what would you change?

Walley: I can't really think of anything. I'm mighty well pleased with my life.

This may sound like I'm trying to imitate a preacher, but I am just as convinced that God called me to be a doctor as preachers are called to the

ministry. I've tried to live up to that calling. And I don't believe I'd ever be happy if I tried to be anything else.

People need to turn their troubles over to Christ. There are probably more suicides at this particular time of the year. People tend to turn their feelings in to themselves, etc. I just don't believe you have that type of feeling if Christ has control of your life.

BR: If you could talk to every Baptist across Mississippi, apart from the message of missions, what would you like to say to them?

Walley: Life is more than just existing, more than just living another day. There has got to be a purpose in your life, for it to be real fulfilling. You have to have a purpose, a goal. You have to have Jesus.

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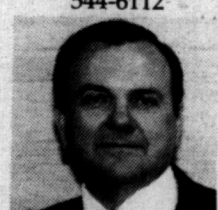
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# Instructions about worship and spiritual gifts



## BIBLE BOOK

Randy W. Turner

Paul had discussed the gift of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit and the graces of the Spirit and now he concluded this section by explaining the government of the Spirit in the public worship service of the church. Apparently there was a tendency for some of the Corinthians to lose control of themselves as they exercised their gifts and Paul had to remind them of the fundamental principles that ought to govern the public meetings of the church. Paul related three principles to address the situation.

**I. Edification (1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 26b).** To edify means "to build up." Paul's choice of the word edify was a wise one. The mistake the Corinthians were making was to emphasize their own personal edification to the neglect of the church. This attitude, of course, not only hurt other Christians but it also hurt the believers who were practicing it. If one member of the

body is weak or infected, it will affect the other members.

Paul detected that the church was neglecting prophesy and giving a wrong emphasis to tongues. Paul explained the supreme value of prophesy over tongues by contrasting the two gifts. Prophesy speaks to men, tongues to God (14:1-3). Prophesy was best because it built up the church. It gave the listeners encouragement and comfort which is something that everybody needs. Prophesy edifies the church, tongues edify only the speaker (14:4-5). Paul did not deny the value of tongues to the speaker but he did place a greater value on building up the church (v. 5). Unless the tongues are interpreted (12:10, 30), the message can do the church no good. Paul pointed out that an interpreter must be present before the gift of tongues may be exercised (14:28).

Paul emphasized the importance of doctrinal teaching in the church. Our worship must be based on truth or it becomes only superstitious emotionalism. The person speaking in tongues (unless there is an interpreter) is enjoying his worship of God but is not edifying the church.

**II. Understanding (1 Corinthians 14:6-25).** Eight times in this section Paul used the word understanding. It is not enough for the minister to impart information to the people. The peo-

1 Corinthians 14

ple must receive it if it is to do them any good. Paul used three simple illustrations to prove his point that there must be understanding if there is to be edifying spiritual ministry: musical instruments, a bugle call in battle, and daily conversation.

Some people have the idea that speaking in a tongue is an evidence of spiritual maturity but Paul taught that it is possible to exercise the gift in an unspiritual and immature manner. The principle of edification encourages us to major on sharing the Word of God so that the church will be strengthened and grow. The principle of understanding reminds us that what we share must be understood if it is to do any good. The third principle is order.

**III. Order (1 Corinthians 14:26-40).** Two statements in this section go together: "Let all things be done for edification" (v. 26), and "Let all things be done decently and in order" (v. 40). When a building is constructed there must be a plan or everything will be in chaos. The Corinthian church was having particular problems with disorder in its public meetings (11:17-23). The reason is not difficult to determine. They were using their spiritual gifts to please themselves and not to help the brethren. The key word was not edification but exhibition. When the Holy Spirit is in charge there will be

self-control for self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23). Our own self-control is one of the evidences that the Spirit is indeed at work in the meeting. One of the ministries of the Spirit is to bring order out of chaos. Confusion comes from Satan not from God (James 3:13-18).

Before leaving this chapter it might be helpful to summarize what Paul wrote about the gift of tongues. It is the God-given ability to speak in a "known" language with which the speaker was not previously acquainted. The purpose was to edify the saved. Not every believer had this gift nor was the gift an evidence of spirituality or the result of the "baptism of the Spirit." Only three persons were permitted to speak in tongues at any one meeting and they had to do so in order and with interpretation. If there was no interpreter they had to keep silent. Prophesy is the superior gift but tongues were not to be despised if they were exercised according to Scripture. It is unfortunate when believers make tongues a test of fellowship or spirituality. We must keep our priorities straight and major on winning the lost and building the church.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

# A song of sorrow: Christians understand emotions



## UNIFORM

Kiely D. Young

My wife and I had only been married one month when we got the tragic news that my mother had been killed in a car wreck. The last time we saw her was on our wedding day. She wanted that one last hug before we left on our honeymoon. We hurriedly said our good-bye and sped away. That scene was fresh in my mind as my brother told us about her car wreck. She had collided with a pick-up truck in a thick fog. She never knew what happened.

The next week was filled with every sort of emotion. Little did I know how important those days would be to future ministry. God truly comforted us in our sorrow to enable us to comfort others in theirs.

David and company received the news of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan with mixed emotion. There was both relief and sorrow. Relief because of the conflicts with Saul, yet sorrow because of the loss of dear friends. This song of sorrow in II Samuel 1 allows Christians to understand many of the emotions we experience in the grief process as we hear David

express his feelings.

**A broken heart (II Samuel 1:17-18).** "And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:" (v. 17). When David heard that Saul and Jonathan had been killed, "David took hold on his clothes, and rent them . . . they mourned, and wept, and fasted . . ." (vv. 11-12). There is little doubt that David was grief stricken over the tragic news. It was not enough to personally express his feelings, he felt the need to share these emotions with his people and give them similar opportunity to express themselves. He turned in the weapons of war for the pen of the poet, being gifted of God for both.

David's actions would prove to be healthy for himself and his people. We too, need to learn how to express our grief in a manner that will yield positive results. We can be a true friend when we help others who feel broken.

My aunt allowed me a shoulder to cry on and release emotions the day before my mother's funeral. She was there at a time when I needed comfort. I have since learned that ministry of presence goes a long way.

**And a bereaved spirit (II Samuel 1:19-21).** "The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places: how are the mighty fallen!" (v. 19). These are strong words of compliments, honor, and tribute. These words would be easy if spoken for Jonathan, but trying in behalf of the

man that had been determined to take his life. David never lost respect for Saul, even though Saul was overcome with jealous rage.

"Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice . . ." (v. 20).

David wanted no one to gloat over the death of these two leaders of God's people. He wanted nothing but the best for his people, he desired nothing but kind and gracious words spoken in their behalf.

There are times when it would be easy to respond with a bitter spirit in tragedy. "Why did this happen to me? I am one of God's chosen servants." Grief and sorrow have no protected arenas. They invade every household. We must respond as David, with faith for the future.

**For a beloved pair (II Samuel 1:22-24).** "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions" (v. 23).

Matthew Henry wrote of these two, "Those that were most fierce and fiery in the camp were no less sweet and lovely in the court, as amiable to the subjects as they were formidable to the foe; a rare combination of softness and sharpness they had, which makes any man's temper very happy."

**And a brotherly friend (II Samuel 1:25-27).** "How the mighty have fallen . . . O

Jonathan . . . I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me . . ." (vv. 25-26).

Few people have as close a relationship as did David and Jonathan. They could not have meant any more if they had been blood brothers. There was nothing that they would not do for each other. They had protected each others' lives on numerous occasions. They meant everything to each other, in joy and sorrow.

Nothing is more delightful in life than the joy of a close friend, one that is wise and good, one that receives and returns kindly affection, one that is faithful to our interests. Similarly nothing is more distressful than the loss of such a friend. It is like losing part of one's self. The more we have loved, the more we grieve.

A dear close friend has been with the Lord now for about a year. He was both contrary and delightful at the same time. He had the unique ability to say the wrong thing at the right time, as well as that special ability to just be there when he was needed. God met our needs in life and death.

In the same way God brought comfort to David at the death of Saul and Jonathan, to me at the death of my mother and dear friend, he still comforts us . . . and somehow allows us to comfort others.

Young is pastor, First, Greenville.

# Life and choices — keep God's commandments



## LIFE AND WORK

Don Dobson

Have you ever had to make a choice? Obviously you have. You have made many choices in just this one day. Life is full of choices. We choose to get out of bed or not to. We choose to be kind or mean. We choose our company, our clothes, our food, and many other items of life. Some choices are insignificant, while others are vitally important. The most important choice that anyone can make is to know and follow the will of God. Moses, in talking to the nation of Israel, told the people to choose God. Our lesson today involves our decision to live according to God's plan for our lives.

**I. God's will is not an undiscoverable mystery (vv. 11-12, 14).**

"If I could just know the will of God." How many times have we heard that statement? Many books, tapes, teaching seminars, and lectures have been developed on the theme of knowing God's will. Certainly, we need the books, tapes, and other devices to instruct us. However, we must realize that God's will, according to Moses, is not an undeniable secret. God has made it known to us. The basic will of God for all is simply to keep his commandments and to abide in him. For many, this may be too simplistic, but a reading of Deut. 30:10 verifies this point.

My children enjoy playing hide and seek. As far as I know, this is one game that God is not involved in with his children.

**II. We can choose between life and death (vv. 15-16).**

God has graciously set before all mankind a new day. Each and every time that we awaken, a new challenge is before us. We have certain

choices to make. Moses tells us that the day is full of possibilities and opportunities are good and honorable. There are choices that we can make that will lead to death, adversity, and heartache.

Each and every day of life can be a bane or a blessing. It really is our choice. As we choose, choose life and life more abundantly by choosing Christ.

**III. Wrong choices bring about punishment (vv. 17-18).**

God was very blunt and explicitly clear as he told the Israelites that wrong choices would result in judgment. Notice that he says, "If thine heart turn away." We all make mistakes. We all sin. Does this mean that God is waiting to viciously hurt us? No. He is a forgiving God. However, if we persist in "following other Gods," the consequences and punishment will surely follow.

Certain choices have equal circumstances. If

we decide to act the fool in life, then our God will be the ultimate critic. Our review will not be pleasing. If we reject Christ as Lord, then we will be judged unfit for the kingdom. Wrong choices can be devastating both here and eternally ever after.

**IV. Just do it! (vv. 19-20).**

A famous manufacturer of athletic clothing has captured one of the finest advertising cliches of the day. It tells us to "just do it." Now, this can be good or it can be bad. It really depends upon what it is that you're being asked to do. God tells us to choose life. He emphatically declares that many good and wonderful blessings await those that choose the Lord. He tells Moses that the people, if they choose correctly, may live in the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob forever. We, too, may live in the land of our heritage if we choose God. May we, with God's help, just do it!

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

Deuteronomy 30:11-12, 14-20





## Student Day at Christmas

GADSDEN, Ala. — Chitose Doukuni (center), a native of Shiga, Japan, enjoys a stroll with new friends Scott Dillard and Kim Lockridge during a break between classes at Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Ala. All three are members of the Baptist Campus Ministries program at the school which includes concerted efforts at developing friend-

ships and sharing Christ across racial and cultural lines. The theme for this year's Student Day at Christmas emphasis is "The Word Becomes Flesh," based on John 1:1-5, 14. The December emphasis encourages students to ask the question, "How am I seeking to share a living Christ with other students?" (Photo by Jim Veneman).

## Former FMB missionary Graham challenges to pray intensely

By Maurice Graham

A year ago, I was sitting behind the wall at the American Embassy in Kuwait, feeling hopeless to be reunited with my family for Christmas. Thanksgiving had just passed, and the dark days were all around me as the deadline for war drew closer.

Then a miracle took place. God's grace poured down upon me. Southern Baptists joined together during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Dec. 2-9, to intensify their prayers for my release and the release of all hostages from their captor, Saddam Hussein. God heard those prayers and responded. On Dec. 7, 1990, Hussein awoke, saying that God had troubled his spirit. He was going to release all foreign hostages.

Prayer made a difference in my destiny. Prayer changes events and people. Because prayer saved my life, I am challenging Southern Baptists to come together again to pray. But this year, I am not asking you to pray for one of your own. I am asking you to pray for people who have never had the opportunity to even hear the gospel for the first time. These people live in a part of the world referred to as "World A" by foreign mission startegists.

"World A" is the part of the world in which missionaries are not allowed to share the gospel. There is no way — humanly speaking — that the gospel can ever reach these 1.2 billion people with only 1% of all the missionaries in the world serving them. Less than 1% of all missions money is spent in this part of the world.

The only way that these barriers can be broken down and that these people can hear the gospel for the very first time and have the opportunity to respond to God's love is for us to pray, that God will remove these barriers that are humanly impossible for us to remove ourselves; and that the gospel will have a chance in this large segment of the world.

I'm asking you to pray for literally billions of people whom you have never seen and never will, who live a half a world away from you, whose culture, language, and religion are strange to you. The only way that their darkness, their hopelessness, their destruction can be changed is for you to pray, to give, and to go.

Prayer has made a difference in opening the door to minister to the Kurds who live in northern Iraq and Iran and southern Turkey. Most Southern Baptists had never even heard of the Kurds, except a small group of Southern Baptists who committed to pray for them. They prayed that God would intervene and make it possible for the gospel to be shared with them. Again, God heard our prayers and opened the impossible door.

This past year we were able to minister to the Kurds through the World Relief program and share Christ's love.

The question that Southern Baptists must face is not, "Can God open doors and change minds so that the gospel will reach every person?" but "Are we serious enough about praying and

responding to a billion-plus people who have never had even one opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ?"

My challenge to you is to pray for one of these people groups with the same intensity and sincerity that you prayed for me a year ago, that they may have the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ.

Graham is former Southern Baptist missionary to Kuwait and associate pastor of Bon Air Church, Richmond, Va.

## Go ask the dead man

By Guy A. Hughes

It was a hot Thursday in June. The temperature was soaring to the 100 degree and tempers were flaring as well. If attitudes could really stink, a clothespin over the nose wouldn't have stopped the stench.

Hot, tired, and hungry, the busyness of the past week was catching up with us. Our mission was to do two puppet shows a day in different neighborhoods to promote Vacation Bible School. Our days for the past week consisted of canvassing the neighborhood, set the stage, perform, take down the stage, eat lunch, travel to the next neighborhood, and repeat the process. We were to proclaim God's love but by the fourth day of the busy week there was no love lost between us. The Sinbusters were being spiritually tested. We were driving along and the bickering mounted. I prayed, "Lord, how do you bring 15 youth together — work hard and long — and keep them loving you and each other?"

He gave me an idea. I turned north on Highway 51 then left into Woodlawn Cemetery. "What are we doin' here?", "Where are we goin'?", and "This is not on our schedule" were a few of the comments.

I stopped the van and ordered everyone out. "But . . ."

"Out," I said. Slowly, reluctantly they climbed out.

"Go and sit under the big oak tree." "But . . ."

"No buts, go on." They trudged on, glancing back, wondering if I were half-crazed. "Sit down and tell me what you see."

Stretching out before us were hundreds of granite tombstones. There we learned several valuable lessons. Death is no respecter of age. Life is precious and every moment worth living for. We need to live each day as if it were our last. We need to love those around us because we will never know at what moment they will be taken from us. We must be thankful for each day and new opportunities given us. MOST IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO THANK GOD FOR THE VICTORY OVER DEATH HE HAS GIVEN US THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS!

What's the worth of one warm smile? Go ask the dead man.

How bright is the light in a loved one's eyes? Go ask the dead man.

Where's the charm in cloudy skies? Go ask the dead man.

Who has eyes for an evening sun? Go ask the dead man.

The smell of earth, the sound of stone? Go ask the dead man.

How intense is the righteous judge? Go ask the dead man.

They say dead men tell no tales, but if you want to hear your own heart beating — listen well — listen well

Go ask the dead man. Go ask the dead man. — (Poem by Ideola)

Hughes is pastor, Friendship, Grenada.

## Southern Baptist youths rank high in survey

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist youths are more apt than their counterparts in other denominations to have a mature faith, to have families who talk freely about their faith, and to feel at home in their congregations. But they're less likely than their counterparts to welcome ethnic diversity.

Those findings were reported by Merton Strommen, executive director of the Augsburg Youth and Family Institute at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., when he spoke to the youth-related professionals of SBC agencies Nov. 19. It was the first time in 10 years the group of youth leaders had met together.

Strommen, author of the book *Five Cries of Youth*, shared the results of research into youth and family ministries within seven denominations — the Seventh Day Adventists, the Christian Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

From Strommen's study entitled "Four Imperatives: Youth and Family Ministry," more Southern Baptist youths grades seven through 12 were shown to have a mature faith than youths in the other six denominations. Of Southern Baptist youths, 28% were shown to have a mature faith. The next-highest level was shown within Seventh Day Adventists at 22%.

"Every major denomination is showing a decline in youth more than the country's decline," Strommen said. "Fewer congregations have the kind of young people who can form the core of a dynamic youth group."

The model includes four imperatives for ministry — a goal-oriented Christian education; strong, life-shaping families; a congrega-

tional sense of family; and a Christian youth subculture.

"You folks are seen by other denominations as having excelled in the area of Christian education — particularly in your training programs and in your materials," he said. "That is a strength to continue."

Specific areas in which Strommen said Southern Baptists excel within Christian education include presenting a personal Christ and stimulating interest in Scripture.

Of the remaining six emphases within Christian education — teach a grace orientation, teach moral responsibility, welcome ethnic diversity, involve youth in service, involve youth in mission outreach, and encourage high self-regard — Southern Baptists fell far short in welcoming ethnic diversity.

"This proved to be a weakness in your denomination," Strommen said.

"In sharing one's faith in the home, you're way ahead in your denomination," Strommen said. "About half of the families within your denomination freely talk about God and faith in their families."

"Values are communicated even when not verbalized," Strommen said. "Parents should know that in normal conversation they are communicating moral values. They've got to remember that and get their heads on straight."

Southern Baptists have done well with instilling a congregational sense of family, he said.

"You folks have a tradition in this church which you should celebrate."

The last imperative cited by Strommen was providing a Christian youth subculture.

"This is your area of expertise," he told the youth leaders.

Strommen referred to the informal fellowship groups found within Southern Baptist churches as the "glue."

"I feel this model is important because we're going to see that the family will become increasingly dysfunctional."

"Therefore, our congregations are going to have to focus on becoming like a family — a surrogate family."

"I see the congregation as my hope for the future."

Doyle writes for WMU.

## Missionary child dies in accident

COTONOU, Benin (BP) — Victoria Bartels, the 2-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Richard and Carmela Bartels, drowned Nov. 23 in the U.S. Embassy swimming pool in Cotonou, Benin.

The Bartelses, of Elizabethtown, Ky., and Kansas City, Mo., respectively, had joined missionaries and other American expatriates at the embassy's American Club for a casual gathering.

The Bartelses, who adopted Victoria in the United States in 1990, planned to hold funeral services Nov. 26 at their home in Cotonou and bury their daughter in a nearby cemetery.

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